

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Abrepaso Flamenco

Project Title: Flamenco Abierto

Score: 82.25

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

To ensure an impartial and transparent application review process, CAC convened an online panel of arts and cultural professionals from outside the region who evaluated and scored eligible applications.

Panelists scored each application based on the Funding Criteria—Public Benefit, Artistic and Cultural Vibrancy and Organizational Capacity—with an emphasis on Public Benefit. For more details regarding the panel scoring process please refer to page 3 of the [Panel Guide](#).

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The panelists who reviewed your application are **Marisa Arellano, Conrhonda Baker, Brad Carlin, Lindsay Keast**. Bios for the Written Panelists begin on page 5 of the [Panel Guide](#). Note: Panelist comments are presented in no particular order.

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Questions? Cuyahoga Arts & Culture is here to assist. Please contact:

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PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

The applicant would benefit from more clearly stating the specific communities that will benefit from the project directly. I was very excited to read about the applicant's relationship with Julia de Burgos Cultural Arts Center as a community partner — that detail helped clarify the types of the communities the applicant typically serves. I would have love to read about the communities Flamenco Abierto is hoping to engage with — thinking on the project level in conjunction with the organization.

Clear and compelling evidence that ABREPASO is engaging the public and its community authentically through multiple access points: performances, classes, and creation of original works. It is evident ABREPASO is engaging diverse artists, neighborhoods, and populations through free and ticketed events for those familiar and unfamiliar with flamenco.

I appreciate the multiple entry points into flamenco, via other organizations, intimate performances, classes, etc. I'd like to hear more about why flamenco is important to Cleveland and the communities served. How is its importance communicated to new audiences?

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

It is clear that the applicant has engaged a diverse and vibrant cohort of artists to engage with their work and mission. I appreciate the close eye to the depth of Hispanic and Latinx culture in the context of flamenco.

This applicant's narrative was incredibly comprehensive, so much so that I struggled to understand which distinct activities comprised the "performance series" and what thread connected them as a series besides all occurring during the grant period, leading to difficulty determining the project's artistic and cultural vibrancy. The responses would be aided by providing an anticipated timeline of when the distinct events would occur during the grant period.

Clear and compelling evidence of co-creation, collaboration and authenticity through the partnership with artists of different backgrounds (dancers, musicians, scholars and teachers). Strong evidence of building capacity in the field through examples of working with master artists from within and outside of the community, as well as ongoing training for the company's artistic leaders.

I appreciate that collaborators and guest performers are diverse and bring a new perspective to flamenco.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Sufficient evidence that ABREPASO can successfully plan and manage this project. Additional detail into the revenues from classes and ticket sales, how the company will market its classes and performances would lend additional evidence of the company's organizational capacity. The \$10k of revenue for ticket sales is almost half of the project income, but lacking detail as to any revenue for classes, ticket prices, or how many people are anticipated to buy tickets.

Diverse collaborators and team that introduces the local community to a very important aspect of culture. Would like to hear more about how the organization plans to grow and change with the needs of the community.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Achievement Centers for Children

Project Title: Adapted Arts Programs and Adapted Music and Movement Programs for Individuals with Disabilities

Score: 82.75

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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The panelists who reviewed your application are **Carrie Elvey, Nikki Kirk, Santiago Martinez, Melanie Wang**. Bios for the Written Panelists begin on page 5 of the [Panel Guide](#). Note: Panelist comments are presented in no particular order.

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2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

It is clear the applicant has an overall respect for people with disabilities and is eager to provide programming that is responsive to their needs. I would have liked to see more specific information about how they gather feedback from participants to ensure they are working with and responding to their needs and interests. I would have also liked to know more specific information about the participants themselves; geographic region, demographic makeup, etc.

The program description clearly outlines the services provided. However, the community definition section does not address the demographics of the population served. There is a definition of the total beneficiaries, but there is no distinction between program participants and festival attendees. There is no description about how the program incorporates feedback or adjusts to participants' interests besides specific examples about learning new music.

Well-established project benefiting a clearly identified community for whom arts engagement will benefit.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

The programming itself sounds engaging, but I still have questions about who the instructors are and how they receive feedback from participants to keep the programming fresh and responsive to the audience. The application describes the leadership, but are those the only 3 instructors and if so, how many participants are engaged with this camp?

Clear description of the program activities and impact on participants. However there is no demographic information about the group of professionals leading the activities, the selection process, and professional development/growth opportunities. While the section describes accessibility, it does not mention any effort related to diversity or equity.

Work samples are illustrative.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

The supporting links were helpful in understanding the scope of the project.

I was somewhat confused in the narrative as they describe themselves as "outcome driven" but shared project goal(s) that was non-definitive.

This sections presents a clear description of the team managing the program and their qualifications. Goals are not clearly connected to metrics. They can include beneficiary satisfaction, participation, and feedback from family members. These can be measured by implementing a pre- and post-program survey. The mention of improved levels of functioning and increased independence through our programs without a clear metric is a missed opportunity to highlight the program's impact.

Areas to strengthen include more detailed budget to demonstrate where grant funding will directly be applicable (given that there are other sources of program subsidy) and stronger examples of on goal setting while still recognizing flexible/participant-driven nature of project.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: America Asian Pacific Islander Organization

Project Title: The Indigenous Voyage to Hawai'i

Score: 90

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

There is strong evidence that the applicant was thoughtful in creating a program that is both culturally important and accessible. Including information about location choice, the library being choice one for accessibility and shared alignment, and making the program free shows a thoughtfully crafted public benefit. Describing Hula's impact and history was great for providing context to panelists. Personalized emails are good, too!

This project seems to be highly accessible to a broad community and appears to involved equitable practices in both planning and proposed implementation

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

Adding statistics about the the autosomal ancestry and historical context makes this section stronger. Indicating that something new will be generated "bringing forth something new" shows the lasting impact of the program. Additionally, showing collaborations is good. This section could have been addressed differently though to be more direct. For example, the applicant could have elaborated on what the challenges are and how the project directly addresses those challenges.

Although the applicant briefly mentioned a planned collaboration and the benefits to the dancers involved, they did not clearly or consistently address the funding criteria in their response. In general, I would advise the applicant to speak more about what the program's benefit to their community will be rather than the specifics of the content they want to share.

The partnership between the Manivic's Dance Company, historic context of island residents, and expertise of local artists demonstrates an authentic cultural exchange.

With opportunities for audience members and artists from outside of the area to participate, this project offers a wonderful opportunity for authentic cultural exchange, as well as personal artistic engagement.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Thoughtful recruitment of local dance group. It is evident the dance group has a strong history performing and is appropriate for the project. The answer should have address internal staff as well such as the planners, administration etc. since organizational capacity includes more than just the performers.

While the applicant did address the qualifications of some participants, they did not address how the board and members will effectively work as a team to implement the project. In addition, the stated goal for the project was broad, making it more difficult to effectively measure progress against it. It would have been helpful to have more specifics about other funding sources and the budget.

There appears to have been significant reflection on the part of the organization in terms of both their art form, and their past programming offering.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: American Slovenian Polka Foundation

Project Title: 59th Annual Thanksgiving Polka Weekend and 34th Polka Music Awards Show

Score: 81

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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The panelists who reviewed your application are **Diana Agostini, Patrice Johnson, Mitch Menchaca, Katelyn Simone**. Bios for the Written Panelists begin on page 5 of the [Panel Guide](#). Note: Panelist comments are presented in no particular order.

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PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

The organization shows knowledge of its community as a main driver for its work. Members of the festival team "are networked" within key communities and that's how they know what people expect from the project, no mention though to how that info is gathered (surveys/meetings?). The organization is accessible through affordable ticket prices and its message of joy and positivity is inviting to the public. More intentional ways to connect with diverse groups would strengthen this section.

The applicant does an excellent job describing the goals, activities and outcomes of the event. They clearly defined how this project will benefit the community. I appreciate the details given.

There is an inherent love for Polka music from this application. I appreciated the stats on attendees and there is an aspiration to target music lovers, but I want more information on how this community is being targeted, especially in the aftermath of COVID-19. Also more details on the growing numbers of BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ music lovers attending the festival. How do you connect with this audience to entice and maintain relationships?

This project thoughtfully honors and maintains the traditions of Cleveland-style polka while also cultivating its evolution and contemporary relevance and incubating new practitioners. The event is clearly valuable and significant to a local as well as national (even international) audience.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

While it is clear that the organization engages performers who represent the "best of their craft", more information on how the organization co-creates and collaborates with the community to inspire and challenge them is needed. Mention to the youth contest and to having at least 2 bands led by women show efforts to diversify the programming, but more info and data on how the organization serves its community's needs is lacking.

The Weekend clearly provides a breadth of cultural experiences, including first-rate performances, opportunities for polka and related dance, Mass, and food. I appreciate the ASPF public meetings and significant interaction with community groups. It would be helpful to understand the leadership team's ties to the polka community as well as further detail on how specifically the event encourages participation by women.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

This section clearly articulates the strength of the organization's team and their ability to implement the project, achieve goals that are realistic based on their budget. The budget is appropriate with about 1/3 of its expenses dedicated to performers' compensations. More information on how the organization is involved in efforts that address/plans on addressing DEI within their own leadership would be great to have (beyond gender composition).

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Aradhana Committee

Project Title: 2023 Cleveland Thyagaraja Festival

Score: 91.75

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

I was incredibly moved by the profound impact and cross cultural connection the applicant has brought to Cleveland through the Thyagaraja Festival. From the applicant's clear articulation of a wide set of community partners, international partners in India, and clear roots and history in the Cleveland arts landscape, it was abundantly clear that the Festival is engaged and in service to Cleveland's cultural community.

Thank you for crafting a narrative that is clear and concise. The responses describing the community of artists, participants, and audience members was strong and allowed me to easily understand the project's public benefit.

Strong and compelling evidence that this project will meaningfully and authentically engage the communities described as evidenced by their respect for their communities, the shared power of a volunteer-run festival, and the meaningful relationships (especially following a three-year absence) across multi-generational immigrants and the wider South Asian diaspora.

This festival is very impressive in planning and execution. I appreciate the diverse volunteers, partnerships, and various tactics they use to get more people excited about Indian classical arts. Curious to hear more about how they are marketing to non-Indian members of the community and expressing the importance of this artform to encourage appreciation and understanding.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

This applicant's responses and respective work samples are exemplary in relaying authenticity, detailing an emphasis on cultural preservation, and underscoring organizers qualifications to steward the project.

Overwhelming evidence of a quality project that will inspire the defined communities through the combination of workshops, competitions, performances and events for local, national and international artists and audiences. Training opportunities as part of the festival will build the capacity of arts and cultural professionals. Detail on reflection processes and fresh programming would have lead to a deeper understanding of how this criterion will be met.

Very collaborative and in-depth planning effort. The festival sounds very impressive and like a prestigious performance opportunity for artists.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

It is often difficult to asses the organizational efficacy and capacity of volunteer organizations which made me especially impressed by the applicant's clear articulation of the roles within the Festival. I also thought the project goals were both great steps to grow the organization while remaining attainable.

Sufficient evidence provided to successfully plan and manage the project: a long history of successful festivals in the past, a realistic budget, and clearly stated goals. However additional detail as to how the organization might need to approach this year's event differently following a pandemic-related hiatus would have provided additional, and overwhelming, evidence of their organizational capacity.

Budget is vague, though I appreciate seeing a robust budget for artists and travel.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Art of Me

Project Title: Storytelling through animation & filmmaking

Score: 98.5

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

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PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

This is a strong application with good evidence. The process is clearly indicated and it's very thoughtful to provide students that do not win the contest an opportunity to intern, participate and learn. Including statistics is very good for providing context to panelists. The recruitment, communication, and ongoing dialogue demonstrates a holistic approach to the project (sharing of power, community driving work etc).

The organization's community-based model of program design, student development, and local partnerships is exemplary.

This project seems highly inclusive and by creating a film offers an opportunity to engage in a meaningful way with a secondary audience beyond the project participants

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

A very strong response. Adding data helps frame the importance of the project and the impact it has on it's core community- youth. Mentioning that youth also benefit from public speaking skills, storytelling, and creatively thinking makes the proposal a must-see-realized endeavor.

I appreciate that the applicant consistently addressed the funding criteria and provided a very strong narrative. The project includes extensive and diverse collaborations in the community and centers co-creation and authenticity through the students' stories. The internship/mentorship portions of the project offer opportunities for budding artists and students to gain professional skills and encouragement.

Project is engaging both current and emerging artists, creating opportunities for mentorship, personal connections, and professional collaborations that have the potential to extend outside of the project.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Organizational capacity is strong and the budget is solid. Good safety nets if the project funds are not met. Strong and relevant community partners that will make the program successful.

Project seems to be collaboratively planned with realistic goals

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Artful

Project Title: Art is for the Birds

Score: 84.5

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

Organizations that are established to meet a present community need are often most engaged with said community, I found that to be the case with this applicant. The applicant was clear and concise in articulating how the proposed project will benefit the Cleveland area and their thoughtful and judicious process for selecting participants with clear plans to provide leadership opportunities was impressive.

This applicant's responses demonstrated a mutually beneficial partnership between participating organizations.

Overwhelming evidence that this project will meaningfully and authentically engage the defined communities. Through partnerships across organizations, residents, and audiences the project clearly demonstrates how it will engage a diverse public in inclusive, accessible, and inviting ways.

Great partnerships to ensure there are diverse collaborators and participants. Curious to hear more about the scholarships to ensure fee-based workshops are accessible.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

It is clear that the applicant has enlisted a great cohort of artists to plan a multi-faceted interactive performance that really does seem to enmesh a diverse set of voices and artists from a variety of disciplines.

This applicant's work samples demonstrated experience with providing activities for families & youth, aiding in determining the proposed project's artistic and cultural vibrancy.

Overwhelming evidence to create a quality project that challenges this community. The artistic and creative aims, as well as the content of the source material are ambitious, and should challenge the defined communities. There are learning opportunities through paid internships and scholarships to prepare artists for rewarding careers. Principles of mutuality, co-creation, and collaboration are clearly stated in the proposal.

Organization is dedicated to selecting a diverse team of creatives that brings a lot of people together, working toward a common goal. Good opportunity for younger artists to learn from older professionals. Organization seems very aware of their impact on the community and the environment. Curious to hear more about the long-term impact of the festival on the students, the artists involved, and the community.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Sufficient evidence is given that the organization has the ability to successfully plan and manage the project. Noting more in-kind marketing income than expense, and a relatively small amount of investment to engage so many different communities in multiple ways (paid and free workshops, camps, performances) prevented the application from providing overwhelming evidence of its organizational capacity. Please note the project expenses in Projects Basics #3 do not match expense total in the budget

Unsure of the number of artists involved and how much time they will dedicate to the project to know if \$9,000 is enough payment.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Arts in Strongsville

Project Title: 23rd Annual A Day at the Chalet

Score: 74.25

CAC Grant Amount: \$0

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PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

While I appreciated the applicant's commitment to enriching the broader Strongsville community through this event, I would have liked a clearer articulation of the specific communities they are hoping to engage with. Are there communities that historically have not engaged with the event? The shuttle service alludes to a desire to reach a broader community and I really wanted more specificity.

Sufficient evidence was given that this project will meaningfully engage its defined community. Strong examples of community partnerships, intended audiences (primarily youth, but also the intergenerational families that will accompany youth participants) and a very accessible and inviting event. Additional detail on how it will engage diverse populations and how the event responds to its community after 22 years would have made the evidence overwhelming.

Since the board does all of the planning, how do they represent the community(ies) being served? Doesn't mention the cultures that are represented in the music and dance; does it align with who they are serving? Great volunteer participation.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

While it is clear the event has a plethora of community partners and features a variety of artistic disciplines, I would have appreciated more clarity as to how these partners are selected and engaged. If there was a programmatic or thematic through-line for the event I'd like to know.

Although the applicant's optional online support materials were instrumental in illustrating the breadth of activities, audience engagement, and scale of the event, both YouTube videos were over 5 years old. This applicant is encouraged to be mindful when providing work samples to share materials that are current (ideally within the last 24 months).

Sufficient evidence that the project will inspire and challenge its community. It is clear how the project will be in collaboration with community, and offer learning opportunities for young professionals. Less clear how the project will challenge the community, or how the process for reflection ensures programming is fresh after 20+ years. Lacking evidence of diversity in the team of arts and cultural professionals and lacking detail in artistic experiences beyond arts and crafts projects.

Seems like there are opportunities for artists, both professional and emerging, to work with children and the goal is to engender a love for the arts in youth, but unsure of the impact on artists and kids. It does sound fun, though.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Sufficient evidence of the organization's ability to successfully plan and manage its project including a long history of the event led by experienced volunteers and a reasonable budget. Goal setting to focused on counting heads may not provide the depth of insight and learning required for the event to evolve.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Arts Renaissance Tremont (ART)

Project Title: ART Season 32: “Friends & Family”

Score: 87.25

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

The project will provide a free concert for visitors at location that is accessible. While free is an access point, there was not enough evidence mentioned on how the applicants will thoughtfully reach their community. Additionally, there is mention of BIPOC artists and composers but no mention on recruitment and how they are thoughtfully engaged. More emphasis on community impact and engagement efforts would have made this proposal stronger.

The applicant's narrative clearly addresses the funding criteria and provides ample evidence of engagement with and responsiveness to the community. I appreciate that the applicant related all of ways they are thinking through how to make the programs more inviting and inclusive, including donation based admission, early timing, pre and post events, and special events for families.

Your plan for engaging with your community was clear and your audience survey responses demonstrate how much they value and enjoy the experience.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

More information on the repertoire would have made this response stronger. For example, it would have been good to know how it was selected and what are the untold stories. This would have helped panelists understand the connections the organization is making with their intended audiences/ community.

Provide background about how educational concerts are co-created with local BIPOC artists and the schools' music program. Include additional information about the program's content Ex. addresses career aspiration/ representation in classical music, the names of the featured composers/ artists, the reasoning for style chosen reflects the diverse student population, and how this program connects with the community/ school district need.

Your stated intent of offering equitable pay at the industry standard level speaks to how highly you value both them and the audiences you serve. Bravo

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Long history with strong indication of organizational capacity. Listed responsibilities provide good evidence that the project will be successful. Imagines help also provide good evidence of success.

I'm a bit confused by the listed goal, as it mentions 4 schools concerts rather than the previously stated 2 school concerts.

Your artists appear to be from a variety of backgrounds and your planning intentionally inclusive. I am sure this leads to a very rich experience where both artists and audiences feel seen and celebrated.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Barton Center, Inc.

Project Title: The Older Adult Community Mural Project

Score: 85.75

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

The supporting photo did not showcase what the applicant was looking for - a photo of the actual mural space would have been helpful

I would have liked more information on the distribution of their advertising plan (i.e. how many older adults their e-newsletter goes out to, which social media networks they plan to use and how many followers they have, who gets the printer monthly newsletter). I think that would help paint a more clear picture of their actual engagement. Also, how will the murals represent the communities? The description of who they serve is quite vague, and it is hard for me to assess true public benefit.

Through description of the target population delimited by geography. Also this section describes the program specifics and how it aims to be reflective of the community. For further understanding of program participants they could collect a short survey while people paint.

Project clearly describes co-creation process to with painting activity simple enough to welcome broad participation. Estimate of those benefited is reasonable at 150 residents, even if reach of completed murals exceeds number.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

The concept for this project is intriguing; I would have liked to know more about if there is feedback they received from residents that brought about this project. Additionally, it would be helpful to see details on the murals themselves - how do they represent the communities, how does the selected artist connect to this community, and how was this artist chosen? Perhaps the submission of sample works from the artist selected would have helped understand the project intent more.

The description clearly addresses the co-collaboration element of the project and outlines the activities and goals related to the mural project in collaboration with an artist.

App would be strengthened with more examples of arts-based programs (only one image uploaded), and more details on the artist's experience in creating work for public participation.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

I would like more insight into how the local artist was selected. The response provided does not give me a clear picture of the experiences of each team member, so it's hard for me to assess diversity of perspective, or the collaborative nature of the work. I'm not sure how, or if, the communities served are involved in the conceptualization of the project - rather than solely the implementation stage.

Clear description of the scope, timeline, staff, and activities related to the project. The 10% overhead costs should have been described.

App would benefit from example of past promo materials to show outreach capacity.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Baseball Heritage Museum

Project Title: Hispanics, Latinos and Mexicans in Baseball -The Early Years-

Score: 76.75

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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The panelists who reviewed your application are **Diana Agostini, Patrice Johnson, Mitch Menchaca, Katelyn Simone**. Bios for the Written Panelists begin on page 5 of the [Panel Guide](#). Note: Panelist comments are presented in no particular order.

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

The collaboration with other organizations and individuals who identify with the Hispanic/Latino/Mexican communities shows engagement and sharing of power in the creation of this project.

There are good stats on the Latino/Hispanic population in the application and I appreciate that there is this given information. However, the question is raised is this a project for the community? Has there been discussions with the community, or is this a passion project of the museum and the director?

The Baseball Heritage Museum clearly serves and understands its community and the value of highlighting underrepresented voices in baseball, a prominent American cultural and historical theme. The event will be relevant to and accessible by a broad public audience. I hope that promotional efforts will engage all local communities to learn from these stories.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

With this being a new project, it inherently challenges the community to reflect on a topic that has not been publicly dealt with before. Collaboration with other organization will strengthen the programming and its effectiveness. There is no information on the process behind the selection of artists and lecturers and how that may tie into building capacity of arts and culture professionals.

This is a unique event highlighting representation of Latino heritage.

There wasn't enough information provided in the application that shares the programming goals of this project. What will be the cultural exhibits and programs entail? Will the community be involved in the planning or just the museum?

I appreciate the collaboration with institutions such as Julia de Burgos, Hola, and the Hispanic Chamber of commerce.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

The team behind the programming is strong through director's experience and partners, as is the collaborative spirit of this initiative. It is lacking information on the organization's own capacity (beside its director) and how it will support the goal of making this an annual event (other board members/volunteers/staff expertise). Budget is adequate (although not clear if \$15K or \$20K); the % allocated to arts & cultural professionals, who are at the core of the programming, is only 15-20%.

The museum director has a good educational background in museum studies and there seem to be good partners like the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Julio De Burgos Cultural Center, but who is the expert in this project? Is there a Latino/Hispanic baseball scholar going to be included, or is it Mr. Rodriguez? If so, I would like to know if he has a background of study in this area?

It would be helpful to understand the number and scope of activities and have more details on the coalition of individuals implementing the work.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Bay Village Community Band

Project Title: Bay Village Community Band Summer Concert Series

Score: 71.5

CAC Grant Amount: \$0

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

There is sufficient evidence that the applicant will meaningfully and authentically engage its community. The project is price accessible, inviting; it demonstrates how it builds and strengthens meaningful relationships through engaging volunteer musicians, community partners, and educational opportunities around the concerts. There is limited evidence that the org shares power with its community, or that it engages diverse populations.

Accessible venue, though always in the same location instead of traveling to neighborhoods who may not get to benefit from the performances. I appreciate that anyone can join the band, though their genre selection would draw a particular type of musician. How diverse is the community and does the band and music represent that diversity? If this was founded in 1978, I'd like to know more about how it has grown and changed throughout the years in response to changes in the community.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

I appreciate the applicant's thoughtful proposal. It was difficult from the application to discern the specifics of how the applicant engages with the Bay Village community. For example the application mentions that the community influences music selections, it would be helpful to provide specific details of this influence. Did it drive the applicant to perform a more diverse repertoire? If so, what was the community response? When speaking about engagement details are key.

There is sufficient evidence that the project will inspire and challenge some in its community, the strongest of which is for the artists involved. It is a collaborative project, led by age diverse and capable artists. However there is limited evidence of mutuality and co-creation with the community (outside of the musicians involved) and little evidence of a process of reflection that ensures fresh programming.

Would like to hear more about how the band is soliciting feedback from the community, because most seems observational and would like to know more about how the band reflects the demographics of the community.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Although total project expenses are noted as \$7K, only \$4K worth of expenses are broken out in the detailed budget. Additionally, the requested amount of funding is \$3.5K, yet the detail for how they will spend the funds adds up to \$4K. I encourage this applicant to be more careful when providing figures as this conflicting information raises questions about the applicant's planning and management capacity.

There is sufficient evidence the organization is able to successfully plan and manage its project. Their track record of attracting volunteer musicians and trustees to plan and implement the project is clear. However discrepancies in the budget, specifically amounts for project expenses only account for the CAC portion, and not the project as a whole, and listing in-kind donations without further explication or balance in expense raises some concern about meeting the full match requirement.

I appreciate the goal to expose more audiences to the music and would like to hear more about how the organization plans to do so. How do they know these broader communities are interested in this type of music? Also would like to hear more about how the community is engaged in creating their programming or if they're still doing the same thing after 40 years of service. Would like to see them invest more in arts and culture professionals - pay more, engage more artists, pay their own musicians.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Beachwood Arts Council

Project Title: Sunday Sounds Series: Nuevo

Score: 74

CAC Grant Amount: \$0

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

I applaud this applicant for their humble recognition of gaps in prior programming and for undertaking the opportunity to broaden offerings.

There is sufficient evidence the organization will meaningfully engage its defined community through its accessible (free) events, its desire to offer more diverse programming, and its intention to strengthen meaningful relationships with senior communities, music teachers and students. The proposal lacks specifics in describing the diversity it seeks to achieve on stage and off suggesting it may not understand, respect or engage with its community enough.

Detailed marketing efforts, but how will they intentionally market to the diverse audiences represented in the new programming? Will they engage more diverse community members on a planning committee?

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

I want to commend the applicant's realization that the proposed project has important steps to take in order to engage with a wider and more diverse breadth of artists and music for the events. Take said, it was difficult to discern from the application materials what those specific steps are. The applicant stated they intended to utilize their experience co-hosting Fall Fest to help connect to a broad range of artists — I wanted specifics as to how that experience will inform next steps.

I greatly appreciated the work sample of the curated video series on YouTube. It gave me a wonderful sense of the variety of concerts previously conducted, increasing confidence in the applicant's ability to achieve the desired increased genre diversity of bookings.

There is insufficient evidence of artistic and cultural vibrancy as defined by CAC. Lacks detail in how they will attract more diverse artist applicants and audience. The use of a culturally-specific term 'Nuevo' without any context for why or how or even if programming will be relevant to Spanish-speaking communities poses significant questions of cultural appropriation. The proposal severely lacks authenticity and lacks evidence the team can serve a diverse community and audience.

How will they engage new audiences and maintain relationships to encourage future participation and attendance? Great performance opportunity for arts professionals.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

I was heartened that this application detailed plans to curate the series of concerts with expanded offerings while acknowledging that this will be a new experience for audiences.

There is sufficient evidence that this organization can successfully plan and manage this project based on their track record with similar events, the team's experience in presenting artists and events, and the reasonable budget. However, the organization's good intentions to bring more diversity in to the project are not backed up with substantive plans, processes, or structures to ensure a culture of belonging or address matters of diversity, equity and inclusion.

How will they respectfully collect demographic data of performers? Are they gathering demographic data from the audience as well? Fair pay for musicians.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Bellaire Puritas Development Corporation

Project Title: 2023 Summer Youth Public Art Project - West Park Hands of Togetherness.

Score: 89.25

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

More information about how the applicant defines their community would be helpful - the response seems to glaze over it beyond Cleveland's ward 16. As a non-resident, I don't have a frame of reference for where that is or what that means with regards to who resides there within. It is great they involved the youth in brainstorming what the public art could be; that demonstrates intentional collaboration for co-creation which allows for the youth to connect more deeply with the work.

The application talks about the program beneficiaries and the skills acquired during the program.

Project has 5-year history with specificity of locations and program partners. Estimated impact of 50 teens paid to create public art and develop event is reasonable given scale of funding.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

The supporting photos really helped in understanding the project outcomes.

The project empowers youth to take ownership over the work and and share that with the larger community; this demonstrates authenticity and mutuality of the project itself. This project also helps support a new generation of artists or arts leaders, as it teaches them skills and exposes them to arts jobs.

The program incorporates the collaboration of community members. Moreover, it describes the activities and the culminating event where the community gathers to celebrate the project.

Images show art creation process and engaged youth. App would be strengthened with less reliance on “togetherness” arts theme which leans toward over-claiming the sense of community created from a straightforward hand-print project. It should be enough given its clear case for value and benefit to youth.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

The project goal could have been more specific; I would have liked to know more about what metrics in the pre/post survey they would be measuring to ensure the youth have gained knowledge on planning an event of this sort.

Clear description of program participants and staff members. Additionally, the organization outlines a history managing and implementing similar programs while collecting feedback and surveys.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging

Project Title: Feeding the Soul through Arts and Culture

Score: 89.5

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

It was heartening to read that the development of the proposed project was a direct result of the needs articulated by the community the applicant intends to serve. The applicant's dedication to providing engaging and responsive programming to older adults within the community of Rose Centers was clear and articulate. I was also very pleased to read that the proposed project is provided in tandem with other essential services to the served community.

This applicant's responses provided an excellent articulation of public benefit stemming from designing activities based on community feedback.

Clear, overwhelming evidence of the organizations ability to engage meaningfully and authentically through the partnerships, responsive ness to the defined community (by delivering a program specifically requested). There is evidence the org will create an inviting, accessible (free), and diverse project.

Really appreciate the collaborator that they've chosen; seems like the perfect fit for this programming. Fun program for participants to create new friendships and combat social isolation, while learning aspects of African culture. How are relationships maintained post-program? How do they recruit new participants?

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

This is a very lovely example of deliberate and responsive programming that is culturally informed. The choice to partner with Mojuba! and Errin Weaver — a teaching artist equipped with the skillset to lead these workshops effectively — was both prudent and a wonderful step in engaging with a more vibrant set of community partners.

Although the website and work samples were engaging, they didn't give me a clear sense of the team's expertise or ability to modify work to suit senior citizens or mobility challenged populations.

There is overwhelming evidence that the project will engage a diverse team of arts professionals, incorporates a reflection process (surveys) and was developed with principles of authenticity and collaboration with the defined community.

I appreciate the accessibility they provide for their programming and how responsive they are to the needs of the participants. While I would like to see this program impact more than one arts professional, I hope it inspires deeper respect for African culture.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Clear and overwhelming evidence that the diverse team is qualified, the budget is realistic and appropriate, and they are able to measure progress toward stated goals.

Not many opportunities for arts professionals when only hiring one collaborator, but the ongoing program will potentially support many arts professionals. Project has many collaborators to see it to fruition. Budget seems realistic and appropriate.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: BigHearted Blooms

Project Title: Flower Design Workshops in Urban Neighborhoods

Score: 90.75

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

The applicant's attempt to diversity workshop participants is fantastic! Partnering with organizations indicates a good attempt to network and make connections with the communities they are attempting to engage. Bringing workshops to community locations shows that the applicant is very thoughtful in their engagement efforts.

The applicant clearly addressed the funding criteria and provided strong evidence of the public benefits the program will bring to their community. The planned partnerships and stated goal of "meeting people where they are" demonstrate responsiveness to the community, and the plans to train lead volunteers in the community show intentionality in building and strengthening relationships, as well as power sharing.

"To best engage new participants, we will meet them where they are." This says so much about your organization and your recognition of the importance of engaging communities in their community!

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

Answer provides good evidence on the participant experience. Quotes or data would be helpful in better understanding the impact.

Provide additional information about how the program's principles and techniques of floral design are linked between your participants interest via survey, staff/volunteer recruitment and training.

One suggestion I would offer is to consider how working artists might be utilized in your project, especially as a way to connect with a previously inactive community. Perhaps consider having a local musician perform during a flower arranging workshop, might entice folks to try something new if they know a familiar face will be there too.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Evidence provided of strong organizational capacity and well-rounded budget.

I really appreciated how this initiative is a result of organizational reflection on who is already participating in your programming and who you still need to reach. Seems like a well thought out strategy to accomplish that goal

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Blazing River Freedom Band

Project Title: Blazing River Freedom Band 2023 Concert Series

Score: 82.75

CAC Grant Amount: \$1056

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

The applicant's dedication to the LGBTQ+ community of Northeast Ohio was abundantly clear throughout the application materials. The applicant's holistic approach to their programming — from engaging with LGBTQ+ participants, being mindful of music repertoire, and not charging fees for broader community performances — demonstrates a clear dedication to the public and a clear enrichment of the broader cultural landscape.

Sufficient evidence the project will meaningfully and authentically engage the stated community. The suggested donation for concerts makes them price accessible. The stated community covers a wide area, and hosting all the concerts in the same venue may suit artists more than audiences. For some marginalized communities, churches can be uninviting places, more detail about how the venue serves the community beyond access to public transportation would strengthen the public benefit evidence.

Appreciate their emphasis on LGBTQ+ themes and composers and the physically accessible venues that are LGBTQ+ friendly. However, churches still feel like a restrictive, exclusive space for many audiences, even if LGBTQ+ friendly. Would like to hear more about the demographics of the performers and how they join the band. Appreciate the focus on relationship-building and safe space in the LGBTQ+ community.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

While it is lovely to see the band members in the photos, support materials that highlighted on each band in action, such as photos while actively marching or playing a concert, or audio/video recordings of the group performing, may have further demonstrated the organization's artistic and cultural vibrancy.

There is sufficient evidence that the project will inspire and challenge the community. More detail about the process that ensures fresh programming as well as how the project demonstrates principles of co-creation and collaboration with the stated community, particularly how concert repertoire and program are chosen, would have been overwhelming evidence of artistic and cultural vibrancy.

I like that they provide a platform for and education of LGBTQ+ composers. While the organization doesn't co-create with the entire community, the impact they do have on their band members and LGBTQ+ audiences is meaningful.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

In the future I would suggest the applicant breakdown a division of duties among the Board in terms of administrative and operational duties. I wanted a clearer sense of how the proposed project will be administered.

Although I applaud this applicant's members for their willingness to provide volunteer administrative support, providing compensation (if even nominal) would bolster confidence in the organizations capacity to manage the project and honor that important work and labor.

There is sufficient evidence of the organization's ability to successfully plan and manage this project. Diverse, inclusive, and qualified professionals are working toward a realistic budget. Less clear, however, are how the orgs goals and measurements will help them evolve.

Goals of representation and support are strong. Would like to see payment to the arts and culture professionals as the organization grows.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: BlueWater Chamber Orchestra

Project Title: Outreach to Seniors Concert

Score: 84.25

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

Applicant makes reference to the senior center partners each representing different Cleveland communities, but doesn't specify who/what those communities actually are. I would have liked more information about who the diverse community they reference is.

The repertoire and activities for the day are outlined clearly and there is a component of interaction with the population served.

Project describes how project aims to reach seniors with multiple points of engagement. Video shows how org has approached introducing classical to everyday audiences. App would be strengthened by providing examples of past outreach programs, given that partners for this project are not yet confirmed.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

I would have liked information on why this concert/composer were chosen. Was it based on feedback from the community that this was of interest or was it a decision made by the Artistic Director to create a program from Spanish or Latin American music? I have unanswered questions about the co-creation, mutuality component of this project. However, the being said the intent behind the program is a good one, I just want more details on the why.

The repertoire is part of an overarching experience around hispanic composers. There are other activities that compliment the concert and invite the audience to engage with the musicians.

Specificity is strong, noting Viva Latina repertoire and instrument.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Would have liked them to be more specific in their goal; what does it mean to increase the number and diversity of attendees, what is the benefit to these folx that they want to see? Without that framework, it is hard to determine how they will measure success.

While the application describes the pay what you wish model and there is a component of transportation. This concert represents 38% of the organization's total budget (expenses) and seems to rely on a grant for \$19,371 which will cover 39% of the total project expenses.

Strong operational detail on how program would be run and skillsets represented in staff and board.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Brooklyn Heights Service Clubs

Project Title: Brooklyn Heights Service Clubs Art in the Park

Score: 82.25

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

The applicant did a commendable job conveying the growth and current outreach of the proposed program. The applicant's holistic approach to community engagement — providing transportation to participants, providing resources for food insecure participants, and developing leadership opportunities for young volunteers — all indicate an evolving and dedicated commitment to serving the community of Brooklyn Heights. As a third party, I see the clear public benefit of this proposal.

This applicant's responses relayed a deep understanding of the shifting demographics of geographic area along with specific barriers that could limit participation. The text, particularly details about transportation offerings, shared plans to mitigate barriers and aided my understanding of this project's public benefit.

Overwhelming evidence that the project will meaningfully and authentically engage the stated community. It is clear, over a long period of time, the organization understands, respects and responds to its diverse community. The project is price accessible and inviting to the community and public.

Appreciate that they also address basic needs, e.g. partnering with food pantry. Like that they have older children volunteer as a learning opportunity. Are they able to survey new residents and people who haven't participated to learn what type of programming new residents would like to be involved in? Relationships are built among children, but not sure how those would be maintained. Are there opportunities for parents to connect as well?

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

There is sufficient evidence of artistic and cultural vibrancy in the proposal. For a project that has been in place for 40+ years, additional evidence of how the program is remaining fresh and how it is challenging its community would have been strong evidence of the project's vibrancy. Merely stating the feedback in surveys is overwhelmingly positive, is not enough to ensure fresh, challenging, and inspiring programming year after year. A deeper reflection process may be helpful going forward.

Do parents help plan the event? Is the planning committee diverse? I like seeing the program goals shift over time to meet community needs. How does this event impact the artists involved?

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

There is sufficient evidence the diverse and qualified team of professionals and volunteers are able to successfully plan and manage the project. The budget, overall is realistic, but it lacks clarity with how in-kind volunteer hours on the income side are balanced on the expense side. It reads as if all the arts and cultural professionals are volunteering their time, while the cash allocated to the project goes to pay for mostly administration and materials?

Would like to hear more about the arts and culture activities planned for the upcoming event. Which artists will be involved? Which cultures will be represented and how does this reflect the community? How will the arts be tied to the field trips to the museum and zoo? How many artists and how much time is involved to know if the budget is paying them fairly?

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Building Bridges Murals

Project Title: Restorative Justice through the arts.

Score: 83.75

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

I was deeply impacted by this line from the application: "claiming ownership of neighborhood identity across differences". The applicant's dedication to restorative justice, and the approach they've taken through this project speaks to a deeply rooted commitment to bettering the communities they serve. The application clearly outlines how the project will engage key community partners and the ideal result of this community creation of public art.

Clear, overwhelming evidence this project will meaningfully and authentically engage its stated community as well as have impact on the wider public. The organization clearly understand, respects, and responds to its community as evidenced in their partnerships, the processes, and the direct participation of the community in nearly all aspects of the project.

I really like the idea of murals representing collective healing as individuals reenter the community, but I'm unclear on how this program will be implemented. Who is painting the murals and how will the ideas be translated into a visual representation? How will the community be involved in the restorative process? What are the murals of and who is painting them?

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

This applicant's narrative provided a very clear illustration of the intention to use artmaking to achieve a cross-sector impact for multiple community members. The slide show work sample greatly helped me to understand their prior success with completing similar projects.

Overwhelming evidence that this project will inspire and challenge its community. The approach is a strong example of the principles of co-creation, collaboration, and authenticity. It is clear through the various partnerships, professionals, and intersections of causes and communities that project is guided by a well qualified and diverse team.

Implementation logistics of this project are vague (see questions posed in Public Benefit comments). How do people re-entering engage in project co-creation? How will artists be recruited or are they using the same artist each time? Project goal and metrics are vague.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

While it is clear that the artistic staff leading this project are abundantly qualified to lead it, the application was unclear in outlining how the administrative and operational elements of this project will be performed.

Sufficient evidence that the organization is able to successfully plan and manage the project. The budget is reasonable and mostly achievable (assuming a high success rate on pending grant applications). The stated goal and measurement of progress are admirable, but lacking in specifics that will clearly demonstrate how the project will evolve.

Mentions three teaching artists here, but unsure how they are selected and how they might represent the communities served. Pay seems low for mural work; are materials included in "Coordination and implementation"? Excellent work samples - are these in other communities? What impact will a mural have on this community / how many murals are already in that community? Overall application lacked logistical details necessary for project implementation and understanding.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Canalway Partners

Project Title: The Towpath Trail Lantern Parade

Score: 86.75

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

Excellent description of using/extending the resource(towpath) and using art to connect with new communities.

The organization has a clear connection with the population served. However, they are not collecting demographic information.

Procession of lanterns made with craft recycled materials combines interest in a geographically significant space (the Erie Canalway National Heritage Area) with sustainable approaches to public artmaking. Applicant mentions a variety of youth partners in 2022 and a commitment to increasing a more racially diverse population and artists for 2023. Mention of ADA access is appreciated –not an obvious point for an outdoor event in nature.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

More information about how you intend to connect with artists in underserved parts of the community would have been helpful.

Application identifies skilled instructor and a community partner bringing both artistic and outreach value to project. While main arts activity focuses on visual and craft, it also includes music performance and videography through teaching demos.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

I wish they provided more information about the lead artist(s) who will be involved in this event. I also wanted more explanation of their state goal and why 30% of underrepresented artists was the threshold - where did that number come from. Is this based on Cleveland census demographics or something else.

The application is among few that provided detail on marketing strategy and unique logistics of hosting an outdoor event in nature, to applicant's credit.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Case Western Reserve University

Project Title: 2023 Cleveland Humanities Festival: Wellness

Score: 85.25

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

I applaud the applicant for leveraging the breadth of resources available to BNC through its association with CWRU to engage with an expansive and diverse range of community partners and organizations. The clear theme of "Wellness" also provide crucial programmatic support for said organizations. I wanted clarity as to how expansive co-sponsorship opportunities are as it is a crucial venue for promoting equity among community partners engaged.

This applicant's narrative clearly defines a massive undertaking to coordinate 30+ partners and demonstrates collaborative work underscoring public benefit.

Overwhelming evidence that this organization has the ability to meaningfully engage its community through its project including: shared power among 20 community organizations to help shape festival content, accessible (free) events at many different locations and venues that serve diverse populations including a stated majority of non-university audiences.

Appreciate that they address pertinent issues, especially in illustrating how those issues can be explored through the arts/humanities. Like that this is a partnership among many institutions and that they are actively looking to diversify that group. Curious how they are working to "recruit" more diverse orgs without being extractive. Would like to hear more about how the theme will play out in programming so as to be inviting to people who may be intimidated by the subject matter.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

Overwhelming evidence that this project will inspire and challenge the communities described through high-profile participants, challenging discussion and topics explored through a wide variety of platforms and formats. CHF provides a well resourced and widely promoted platform for programming that may not be as accessible if presented outside the context of a city-wide festival. But the decentralized nature means orgs other than BNC could have more impact on the project's overall vibrancy.

Curious how they are working to "recruit" more diverse orgs without being extractive.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

I encourage this applicant to be mindful with support pdfs. I would prefer to have only received a final copy instead of proofs, as the last one has a plethora of comment bubbles which I found distracting.

It is overwhelmingly clear the organization has the capacity and experience necessary to successfully plan and manage this project with an experienced staff, reasonable goals and budget. The stated goal makes sense given the pandemic context, however, a research-focused institution could do more to demonstrate how it will evolve and meet challenges related to EDI through more than counting events submitted.

Very collaborative. Will only benefit more as they diversify the planning team. How do they ensure quality across all programming?

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Catholic Charities Diocese of Cleveland

Project Title: Engaging the Arts

Score: 88.25

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

Applicant notes they get feedback from the community that informs the arts programming which shows intentionality and community power sharing, though I would have liked more information on how that feedback is gathered.

There is not a description of the number of people participating on the program in the past or what do they mean by partnerships, as it seems they provide transportation only. Also what is the definition of reasonable costs when serving a population where 48% are low income?

Project serves youth, partnering with arts instructors to deliver programs in music, dance, and media.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

Would have liked more information on how programming was chosen or co-created with the community. There is commentary about residents reporting a lack of experience with the arts, so would have liked to hear more about how that feedback was gathered and how it was utilized to create the specific programming of this project. The applicant did not submit any support materials that showcase the arts programming, would have been helpful to see some reference of that.

Activities, program participants, and teaching artists are described thoroughly.

App could be strengthened by using more consistent project title (engaging v. embracing the arts) and making clearer that project has established history. Given background of program, noticeable that no examples of past work included.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

The partnerships listed in the application highlight the organization commitment to the arts.

The assessment section is detailed, a more sophisticated approach to impact. Perhaps the org benefits from experience evaluating other programs outside of arts.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District

Project Title: Cedar Fairmount SummerFEST 2023

Score: 75.5

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

There is sufficient evidence that the organization is able to meaningfully engage its audiences. The project is price accessible and inviting to the community, and the proposal demonstrated the orgs knowledge of its community. However, there is limited evidence of how the org shares power and builds relationships. The proposal mentions many important institutions as neighbors, but now they are engaged in the project. The org claims to be 'continuously reaching out' without saying to whom.

Would like more information on how the bands are selected to know that the community sees themselves in the programming; feels seen and heard. Have they solicited community feedback about this programming and are they responding to a need? What was the process in deciding that community concerts were the best way to fill this need?

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

I applaud this applicant for detailing learnings from COVID presentations and using them to redesign future programming. Given that the music concerts will be a large emphasis for this proposed project, additional specific detail on the number of concerts, and possibly audio/video samples for bands likely to be selected would have provided more context to support their artistic and cultural vibrancy.

There is clear overwhelming evidence that the project will inspire and challenge their defined community with responsive and diverse programming based on previous audience engagement. It is clear the organization has a process of reflection to find a balance between new and fresh programming while honoring what audiences from the previous year are excited about.

Would like to hear more about how this programming is evaluated. Observation of large attendance and people having fun does not necessarily equate to it being the best use of the funds and the best way to solve an identified community need. Only one staff member is identified - will the expansion of the district include an increase in staff capacity?

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

This project is being shepherded by an experienced professional, but I was unclear about the specific steps the applicant plans to take in order to achieve the goals listed. For example, the application mentions the "SID enthusiastically reaches . . . many diverse groups" — how is that outreach done? Will the insights from the 2021 festival inform a new or changed plan for this outreach? Specificity would help me get a better sense of how this plan will be implemented and successful.

There is clear overwhelming evidence of the orgs ability to successfully plan and manage the project. The team is capable, and the budget is reasonable. The stated goal, however admirable, lacks clear measurables (what form of diversity is desired?) and even proposed strategies for achieving increased diversity.

Unclear on how many concerts will be scheduled to ensure artists are being paid fairly. Glad to hear they will use the grant to pay the artists and actively work to ensure artist demographics represent the demographics of the neighborhood.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Celebrate the Arts Performance Academy

Project Title: From the Ground Up Botanical Garden & Mural Project

Score: 89.5

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

Project has a fee - would have liked to hear more about if there are financial support opportunities for families that cannot pay the fee. It is great to hear that the projects are participant-led.

The project describes the impact on the community and organization. Additionally, it has already established partnerships with other organizations and artists to implement the program.

Project has clear program concept and named instructor, with three discrete points of engagement. Program requires \$250 fee for participation, while culminating arts events are free. While this structure helps feasibility of program and reliable attendance, it may undercut \$ access of program to some youth.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

A clear outcome is described and people participating in the program as assistants or participants are described. Additionally, the organization plans to collect input from the community via surveys and informal conversations.

Still appreciating the quality of the program, given CAC's positioning, it is interesting a grant may be helping subsidize the value of the art to the public more than the youth involved.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

I appreciate the addition of the Property Manager as a recognized player in this project.

The stated SMARTIE goal is fairly vague, and sounds mostly aligned with just completion of the state project. Would like to know more about what the outcomes they hope for with the community or those involved in the program would be. Helpful to see the bio and work of the selected artist for reference!

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Cesear's Forum

Project Title: A FUGITIVE'S LESSON

Score: 81.5

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

While the application describes a geographical area there is not mention of demographic information or the audience composition of past productions. Also, there is no description of the price range for tickets or how they've collected information about the feeling of community mentioned in the narrative.

Project presents juxtaposition of works to explore “elements of societal indoctrination gone awry.” App centers how grant will support direct employment of artists and tech, while bringing experimental work to region.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

The beauty of the application is the inclusive nature of it hiring practices. Using the venue to give non-union workers a chance for resume building is key.

The goal is not related to the performance or the exchange between the artists and the audience, but instead is to pay actors.

Reference to past repertoire, involvement of students, and cultural partnerships illustrate value of organization to cultural community. Attached review helps to situate org’s role in broader theatrical offerings to region.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

With an organization-wide budget of \$20,000 a project of \$18,000 represents 90% of the total budget. Additionally, \$5,000 represents a 25% of the total organization expenses. It seems that this organization has a single project running for a month but does not have the administrative resources to manage it.

Production description and operations are detailed.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Choral Arts Cleveland

Project Title: "Sing Together Children"

Score: 90.25

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

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The panelists who reviewed your application are **Karla Centeno, Maria Jenkins, Channie Jones, Lisa Leiberling**. Bios for the Written Panelists begin on page 5 of the [Panel Guide](#). Note: Panelist comments are presented in no particular order.

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

The proposal is very thoughtfully written and the project thoughtfully addresses many issues. There is strong evidence of public benefit and sharing of power and exchanging ideas. It appears to be a mutually beneficial project that will support both choruses and their respective communities/ audiences.

This project appears to be thoughtfully planned so as to meaningfully engage multiple communities, both in terms of artists and audiences.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

Combining both side will create a very comprehensive experience for audience members and singers. More evidence on how the styles will merge such as the creative process would have been good to add.

I appreciate that inclusivity, diversity and collaboration are mentioned as goals throughout the narrative, however, more details about how the cross-cultural learning between groups will be achieved would have been helpful, as it speaks to the level of co-creation and mutuality involved in the project.

Provide background about how the collaboration between the directors developed the program design and song selection meaning. Additional information about the relationship building activities and learning experience amongst choir members will be documented and expressed during the final performance.

The project seems to be equitable designed so all participants, again both artists and audience members, will have an opportunity to learn from each other, and engage with their art in a new way.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Good evidence of strong organizational capacity from both parties. The selection of group leaders is very appropriate given their extensive experiences and knowledge of their community. With a program like this, survey feedback is integral in showing impact and providing refinements for future programs. In regards to budget, indicating that arts cleveland would draw on reserves shows skin in the game to realize this project.

Based on the funding criteria, I would have liked to have seen information about how this is being planned as a team, including who is handling event production, marketing and other logistical needs.

The budget seems well thought out, and I applaud that a significant amount of the funds will go to artists.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: City Ballet of Cleveland

Project Title: City Ballet Of Cleveland Outreach For All!

Score: 77.25

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

This application is a strong example of an organization that is clear in its mission and has thoughtfully considered the ways it can be of service to both its community and the young dancers who participate in its programming. Specifically, I appreciated the clear steps outlined for collaborating with school administrators. The application clearly defined how CBC intends to be responsive to their community which I always appreciate as a outside reader!

There is sufficient evidence that the project will meaningfully and authentically engage with the defined community of ballet audiences in schools and senior citizen facilities. It is clear that the outreach performances are price accessible and inviting, and are designed to build meaningful relationships with its community. The application is less clear about how it might share power or use its knowledge of the community to drive its work.

Like that they've chosen accessible venues and adapt performances to those spaces. How are they attracting diverse audiences who don't historically see themselves represented in ballet (music selection, guest artists, etc.)?

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

There is sufficient evidence that this project will inspire and challenge its community. There are clear opportunities for the pre-professional company involved to build their capacity and create opportunities for a career in arts and culture. The professional artists involved are qualified. There is a process of reflection described that could ensure programming remains fresh, but not evidence of how their reflection process impacts programming in the outreach performances.

Surveying authority figures in schools, but not parents and students. How are they ensuring that diverse students and adults see themselves in the programming and can find a connection with ballet?

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Although total project expenses are noted as \$12K, \$22K worth of expenses are detailed in the budget chart. If \$22K is correct and only \$13K is projected for income, then there is a planned \$9K deficit. I encourage this applicant to be more careful when providing budget information as these conflicting figures raise questions about the applicant's planning and management capacity.

There is marginally sufficient evidence that the org will successfully plan and manage the project. The team is diverse and qualified, there is evidence the budget will meet the match. However, the budget includes \$1k of in-kind donations with out explanation of what the donations are or how those donations are balanced in project expenses. The project shows \$8k more expense than income without explanation. The stated goal is the same as the project, and does not show how the org will evolve.

What is included in the budget for "Arts and Cultural Professionals"? Does this include dancer pay or is that separate? Is this just guest artists? Seems low. Appreciate the diversity represented throughout the Annual Report.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Cleveland Chamber Collective

Project Title: After the Storm

Score: 81.5

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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The panelists who reviewed your application are **Diana Agostini, Patrice Johnson, Mitch Menchaca, Katelyn Simone**. Bios for the Written Panelists begin on page 5 of the [Panel Guide](#). Note: Panelist comments are presented in no particular order.

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

The organization intentionally worked on its programming, locations, and content to engage their community and to expand their reach to make classical music more accessible to different audiences.

I appreciate the sentiment behind this project and wanting to give back to the community, especially after three years of unprecedented times. However, a weak part of the narrative focused around BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ inclusion. It seemed the term was thrown around the application. The narrative could have been stronger to include examples of BIPOC or LGBTQIA+ composers the organization is planning to program as an example of its planning.

It's valuable to offer the performances in a range of community venues in access points. What kinds of partnerships are you seeking to make and how?

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

The organization brings innovation and challenges by bringing their programming to "unusual" and new spaces. The program itself has also been selected with the lens of innovation through the theme of composition through adverse moment.

Experienced musicians with a clear intention to expand their inclusion through their programming and performance.

The team is clearly qualified to implement this project artistically and administratively. It's less clear how the organization co-creates and engages with its community or builds relationships beyond performances. It would be great to understand more about efforts to ensure programming decisions are made equitably and collaboratively.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

The budget is clear and most of the expenses are for musicians and artist (well done!). It would be great to also see intentional practices in hiring musicians from diverse groups.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Cleveland Chamber Symphony

Project Title: NEOSonicSpring - A Northeast Ohio New Music Festival hosted by the Cleveland Chamber Symphony

Score: 88.25

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

I was hearten to see that the applicant clearly recognized the need for more equitable access in classical music to historically underrepresented communities. The organization's relationship building with partners like CCS and the Past Masters program, indicates to me as a reader that the applicant is both engaged with their community and taking active steps to respond to community needs with enriching musical programming.

I appreciate this applicant's acknowledgment of challenges within the genre and the detail of actions taken to address concerns, including expanding representation among the orchestra, along with the works selected for performances. All of these aided in demonstrating public benefit.

There is sufficient evidence of the organizations ability to meaningfully and authentically engage its community. The events are price accessible, there are examples of partnerships an collaboration with community members and organizations, and evidence of how this project will deepen relationships with the community (Cleveland Prize and Cleveland School of the Arts). More information about WHY the expansion of Fall and Spring programming, and for WHOM would have made the evidence overwhelming.

Really exciting work pushing the boundaries of music. I appreciate that they recognize the challenges to diversify the field and have built partnerships to address those issues. Would like more information on how this effort is going and if they've been able to diversify their performers.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

There is overwhelming evidence that the project will inspire and challenge its community through fresh programming with themes relevant and import ant to the community, a collection of diverse and qualified artists, and creating opportunities to build capacity in the field for future careers in arts and culture (Emerging Composer event).

Actively working to diversify composers and performers to best reflect the communities they serve. How are they working to diversify administrative staff; is it diverse?

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

This application clearly delineated operational responsibilities within the organization and indicated other funding sources — both of which make me, as an outside reader, feel more confident in the organization's ability to enrich and grow the NEOSonicSpring within the proposed funding year and beyond.

There is clear overwhelming evidence of the orgs ability to plan and manage the project successfully. The goals are clear and measurable, the budget and CAC match are reasonable and realistic. The team is qualified and they have identified opportunities to address diversity, equity and inclusion.

Diversifying music to attract diverse performers, composers, and audience. Would like to see more diversity among staff and board, which will help reflect the authenticity of their efforts.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Cleveland Composers Guild

Project Title: Creativity: Learning through Experience XXXI

Score: 87.75

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

As reader I am always moved by established programs and events that are able to serve as pathways to creating new opportunities for underserved communities. It was impactful to read how past participants of this program have had their compositions go on to have life beyond the program in addition to the impressive list of area professionals enlisted to participate. The dedication to fairly compensating both professionals and students speaks to a dedication to their community.

There is overwhelming evidence that this project will meaningfully and authentically engage the defined community. By offering all participants stipends, including the students, this project demonstrates how it shares power and respects its community. The work with teachers in the community to identify students skills is strong evidence of building meaningful relationships. The events are price accessible and inviting.

This is an incredible mentorship and collaborative opportunity for young musicians and composers. Artist payments are minimal. Would like to hear more about HOW the organization is working to draw and retain diverse participants in the classical music community, knowing that genre is not historically inclusive/representative.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

I greatly appreciated the provided work samples as they expertly demonstrated the concert AND rehearsal processes. This in combination with the narrative allowed me to discern a high level of collaboration, co-creation, and capacity building for young musicians.

There is overwhelming evidence that this project will inspire and challenge its community through the collaboration with key partners, the qualified artistic professionals, the opportunities for building capacity in the field for composers as well as musicians, and the new addition of a vocal element this year demonstrates fresh programming.

Great collaborative opportunity for emerging and established arts professionals. Would like to hear more about how they are hoping to get more diverse, emerging musicians and composers involved in classical music. Are the mentors diverse? Are they working with diverse faculty to identify diverse students?

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

There is sufficient evidence of the orgs ability to successfully plan and manage the project. The diverse team of qualified professionals have a clear and successful track record, proposed a realistic budget and potential for CAC match. The stated goal, however is a re-stating of the orgs mission not evidence of how they will evolve in addition to completing the project, and unsolicited feedback is not a clear measurement for measuring progress of a goal.

Ideally would like to see the project collaborators paid more. I appreciate how they are catering to diverse mediums and looking to diversify participants. Would like more information on HOW the latter is being addressed.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Cleveland Dance Project Company

Project Title: CDP Company Community Wellness Project

Score: 93.25

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

I appreciated the addition of the survey results and the clear description of the protocols.

The application outlines the activities, timeframe, locations, and general population served. However, it lacks a description around the specific underserved communities that it intends to serve. There is no definition of the sliding scale payment model or accessible programming.

Project brings dance to health and human service groups serving adult populations. The application's intention in framing how leaders' identity backgrounds help inform programs and inclusive outreach is appreciated.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

The organization has designed a project that aims to serve a clearly outlined target population. The roles and responsibilities outlined in the narrative aim to collect feedback and hone the activities throughout the year to pursue the goal.

Impact video with testimonials is outstanding. Three partners and project locations given with very detailed explanation of curricula, assessment, and program revision.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

I am little concerned about scaling back on paying talent or asking for donated time from staff if the grant is not received. This practice can be a slippery slope.

Overall this is a really strong application. The programming is developed thoughtfully, inclusively, and is reflective.

The narrative describes a clear understanding of the scope, timeline, and resources necessary to implement the project, achieve the goal, and pivot if necessary.

Addressed my only remaining question from main proposal in optional section, when stating example of how they refer program participants.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Cleveland Grays Armory Museum

Project Title: "Unwritten History" A Grays Lecture Series.

Score: 78.75

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

Applicant shares that they utilize feedback from the previous year's programming to create this year, which demonstrates a sense of power sharing important for the success of programming. Applicant intends to use fundings for enhanced accessibility of programs to the public; intentionality is significant for public benefit.

The narrative outlines clearly the content of the lecture and its past success. However, it describes all resident of the northeast as a potential audience while stating the the total number of expected participants is 50. With 7 lectures scheduled this program would be serving around 7 people per lecture. Additionally, there is no demographic information about the people who attend programing at the Armory or a definition of diversity.

While the program is in 7th year, unclear if it's first year it is free due to grant funding. App could be strengthened if relying less on "free" automatically drawing a "diverse" audience, though the org recognizes outreach is priority.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

It is unclear from the application if the topics chosen really reflect and endeavor to grow, a diverse visitorship.

The outlined activities are clear and concise. Yet there is no mention of past speakers, attendance to previous events, or how the organization has incorporated feedback from the community.

Project's regional military heritage focus seems specialized and likely serviced primarily by this org.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

The organization has a clear understanding of the scope, timeline, and resources necessary for the project. It has allocated responsibilities and has a plan for collecting surveys to measure the project's impact. However it seems that there are no other sources of income for this project and the project relies on the CAC grant.

Org may want to consider more contemporary methods such as digital ads beyond print and a more consistent registration email (three distinct ones are listed in application, flyer, and website).

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Cleveland Inner City Ballet

Project Title: Destination Ballet Program

Score: 82.25

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

More info about the non-dance portion of this project would have been helpful (crafts and take-aways connected to ballet?)

The narrative does not address the program's impact on the target population.

Overall premise seems intuitive in bringing classical dance to populations without access. Application would be strengthened with more specificity as to how target locations and populations would be identified and reached. Budget indicates that instructors are the largest proportion of the overall project, which is admirable.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

The only sample image shows a large group with early learners, making it difficult to ascertain range of curriculum. Looking to applicant's website and reviewing past news articles was helpful.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

The stated goal could have been more specific; it would have been helpful to get context about how many attendees the company has now, and then figure out what growth, specifically, they would like to see. That could dictate outreach and engagement needs.

The goal is not specific or has a SMARTIE approach.

Narrative gives confidence with framing that the project expands on existing programs and a 2021 outreach pilot in 3 locations, during which walk up participants and spectators were engaged. Organization has only three board members, one who is also the founding director, and with a small operating budget taking on a new program half of its existing budget size is something to consider.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Cleveland Leadership Center

Project Title: Creating awareness and understanding of Arts & Culture to inspire change

Score: 80

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

There is sufficient evidence that this project will meaningfully and authentically engage the community. The project demonstrates building meaningful relationships between participants and arts/cultural communities, the program is accessible, and is inclusive in engaging diverse populations through the participants and artists engaged in Arts Days. The proposal lacks evidence of how the project will share power with the arts community and professionals it chooses to highlight in the curriculum.

The examples of participant experiences is excellent, however I'm missing the HOW - how do you engage diverse participants, how do you create safe spaces, how do you ensure engagement is authentic, how do you meaningfully maintain these relationships and collaborations after Arts Days, etc.? How are arts leaders and artists involved in co-creating Arts Days? This reads like the organization is creating programming FOR the community rather than WITH.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

I was impressed by the dynamism of the programming for each of the proposed project days. Engaging leaders in the community to help mentor new leaders in the community while getting out and actually engaging with said community in real time is an impactful way to draw directly from the cultural vibrancy of the Cleveland arts landscape. I had fun reading the attached scavenger hunt agendas — I can only imagine the experience for participants!

There is sufficient evidence the project will inspire and challenge its community. There are qualified and diverse team of professionals engaged in the project. But it is less clear how the project directly and authentically collaborates with arts and culture, it appears as if the program draws from the work of the arts community to provide curriculum, without adding back to that community other than claiming 'cultural ambassadors' with providing evidence of impact.

I appreciate the connections civic leaders are making with communities and the creative sector. Great learning opportunity for arts professionals to meet communities where they are, learn about their challenges, and brainstorm solutions together for social change. I would like a better understanding of the long-term impact of Arts Days - do collaborations continue? How are they creating systemic change? How are relationships maintained?

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

In reviewing this application, I took note that the program staff receives professional development to ensure best practice during design. I greatly appreciate the 2022 Arts Day agenda work sample, which provided a greater understanding of the scope and breadth of the proposed project and pathways by which you achieve cross-sector understanding.

There is sufficient evidence the org can plan and manage the project. The team is qualified and diverse. The budget raises concerns about how much of the the 'match' for CAC funding would come from non-arts days programming. If the project is for 3 arts days, the full match should be toward arts days expenses - The budget does not make this clear, rather, looks like CAC is fully funding arts days and the match is coming from other non-arts-days resources.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

It seems many of the artists are alumni of the program - how are they reaching new artists and new communities to bring in fresh ideas? Applicant says their goal is to be a catalyst for this work; I'm not sure what then sustains the long-term, authentic relationships necessary for this work to happen.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Cleveland Opera Theater

Project Title: Opera For All - Community Engagement Performances

Score: 91.5

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

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The panelists who reviewed your application are **Karla Centeno, Maria Jenkins, Channie Jones, Lisa Leiberling**. Bios for the Written Panelists begin on page 5 of the [Panel Guide](#). Note: Panelist comments are presented in no particular order.

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

There is good evidence that the organization is engaged with the community. It would be good to further understand how the organization collaborates with community partners including what is the process for partnering, what is the partner selection process etc. There is evidence that the organization diversifies the artists roster but more elaboration on strategic efforts (i.e. what is the dialog? how do you engage) to diversity audience and engagement practices would have made response stronger.

The applicant presented strong evidence that their program engages with their community through partnerships and collaborations. They clearly outlined their efforts to address inclusivity and diversity by providing free and low-cost events, engaging BIPOC artists and seeking feedback from the community.

The outcome of the audience evaluation and targeted community engagement efforts are present in the season scheduling, programming, and casting representation that connects with the broader diverse artistic community.

The application clearly and repeatedly demonstrates how the organization not only engage with their artists and audiences, but responds to their needs, interests, and suggestions. The application also demonstrates how the organization has cultivated relationships with other organizations that serve their community.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

It's great to read that the organization is curating cultural relevant works. More information on how folks are engaged would make this application stronger.

The application is specific and detailed in the efforts put forth not only to be diverse in the artists they put on stage, but also inclusive in their practices, so they are not simply checking a box.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

There is good indication of strong organizational capacity. The budget is balanced. Very good work samples.

As noted, the organization seems to put forth a sincere and focused effort to hear from their audiences, and create collaborative programming in response.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Cleveland Philharmonic Orchestra

Project Title: A Community Creation of Music

Score: 75.25

CAC Grant Amount: \$3200

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

In some instances within this application the proposed community benefit was clearly articulated and easy to follow. The applicant's proposed collaboration with Color Plus local coral groups painted a vivid picture that was easily followed. I would suggest when referencing developing partners that may impact the proposal, indicate the current status of development or next steps. The proposed local service partnership was compelling but was unclear from the materials what next steps are.

This applicant missed the opportunity to provide curated support materials to that may have aided in an outside panelists understanding of the project's public benefit and artistic and cultural vibrancy. Although visiting the website was sufficient, I would have appreciated the inclusion of more tailored work samples, since the website is also provided as part of the organizational overview section.

The evidence for public benefit is overwhelming. The approach to the community partnerships with LGBTQ+ Center demonstrates shared power and respect, and provide evidence of building meaningful relationships. The events are accessible and inviting to the community and the public.

How are the musical pieces selected? How did the partnership with the LGBTQ+ organization come about? How is the orchestra reaching diverse audiences who are historically underrepresented in the field?

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

The application provides overwhelming evidence that the project will inspire and challenge its community. By letting their LGBTQ+ community partners shape the concert repertoire, and working with choral artists the orchestra has not worked with before, the project gives evidence of fresh programming, collaboration, mutuality, authenticity and collaboration. The volunteers are capable and qualified, and their project demonstrates an inclusive approach.

Would like to hear more about the diversity of staff, volunteers, and how they are reaching new audiences to enjoy the orchestra. Appreciate they are reaching LGBTQ+ youth who may want to get more involved in music.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

There is sufficient evidence of the orgs ability to successfully plan and manage the project. The team is diverse and qualified, the budget is reasonable including the ability to match CAC funds. Providing a goal and metrics for accomplishing the goal that is IN ADDITION to completing the project would have made the evidence for organizational capacity overwhelming.

Unclear on budget - who is being paid \$2,200 for Arts and Cultural Professionals? How diverse is the staff and board. How does the music, orchestra, etc. reflect Cleveland's diversity?

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Cleveland Photo Fest

Project Title: Cleveland Photo Fest 2023

Score: 83.25

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

The applicant made a clear case for how responsive and dynamic Cleveland Photo Fest is. I was impressed by the codification of programming next year's events in direct response to community feedback from the current year's festival. From the anecdotes provided about 2021 and 2022, it is clear that the community feels in conversation with the applicant — a great indicator of public benefit.

There is sufficient evidence that the project will meaningfully and authentically engage its diverse community through the building and strengthening of existing meaningful relationships with photographers, students, and volunteers. The events are accessible and inviting to the community and public. Additional detail about HOW it will encourage submissions from diverse communities and HOW it will seek to build new relationships would have made the evidence of public benefit overwhelming.

Says the group is very diverse - how are they measuring this? How did the 2019 and 2021 events build relationships with more diverse audiences? Appreciate that they know they need to strengthen relationships with Latinx communities and that they don't charge a submission fee. How do they ensure everyone has access to equipment needed to participate? Would benefit from more detail regarding how they are authentically engaging new audiences and removing barriers to participation.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

I commend organizations that recognize a need for a broader spectrum of voices and set forth a plan with actionable steps to achieve it. The proposal made clear that the need to build stronger relationships with the Latinx communities within Cuyahoga county was urgent and then indicated the first steps the applicant will take. I thought it was wonderful that the applicant wants to draw from the community CAC itself creates for potential grantees!

This applicant's narrative detailing plans to achieve their goal, greatly aided in my understanding their intention to engage Hispanic & Latinx artists along with deploying methods that center on co-creation.

There is sufficient evidence that the project will inspire and challenge its community. There are clear processes in place to consider relevant themes from diverse perspectives, the professional artists involved are diverse and qualified, and evidence of collaboration with venues and under-represented and marginalized communities. Additional detail into how the planning committee is formed, how decisions are made would have made evidence of mutuality and co-creation overwhelming.

Exhibition seems to be co-created through various and diverse feedback. Seems like it's a great opportunity for amateur and emerging photographers, but would benefit from more detail on the educational opportunities and examples of how this exhibition could

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

I encourage this applicant to be more careful when providing budget information, as the total project budget figure does not align with expense detail.

There is overwhelming evidence that the org has the ability to successfully plan and manage the project. The budget is reasonable with clear plans for meeting the match. The stated goal shows how the org will make progress with Latinx communities in addition to delivering the proposed project. Additional

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

explanation for having more income than revenue in the project budget would help me feel confident that was not an error.

Strong goal to strengthen connections with Latinx communities. To have these communities participate in the planning could be seen as extractive; how will you build relationships first before engaging them in-depth? The "I Identify As" project is a great example of how to authentically engage new photographers and build meaningful relationships - were the photographers paid? Would benefit from knowing how many educational programs and artists will be involved to know if the budget is fair.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Cleveland Rape Crisis Center

Project Title: Expanding Access to Healing Art Programming for Survivors of Sexual Violence

Score: 91

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

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The panelists who reviewed your application are **Carrie Elvey, Nikki Kirk, Santiago Martinez, Melanie Wang**. Bios for the Written Panelists begin on page 5 of the [Panel Guide](#). Note: Panelist comments are presented in no particular order.

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

The organization has identified a need in the population served and is creating a program to address the need by providing art therapy. Moreover, the narrative demonstrates that the organization has made a conscious effort to collect demographic information.

Noteworthy that it states as only agency serving four-counties serving sexual survivors. To serve 350 through art therapy with this population is suggested to be more in-depth and potentially more impactful than simply audience/attendance.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

Solid application; would have liked a little more information about the types of art projects utilized within art therapy, but not a huge issue for scoring.

While the organization adheres to the practices outlined by the Art Therapy Credential Board code of ethics, there is no specific description of the activities offered to the clients.

It was helpful to get general narrative on the team's training and credentials, but Annette Kent whose work will be main grant beneficiary had limited detail. Application could be improved with more background on artistic elements of the org's art therapy practice.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

In asking for the CAC money to pay for an individual's time and talent, and in clearly explaining how the program is organized, the applicant shows they have a clear and strong capacity for providing quality programs.

The narrative demonstrates a clear understanding of the resources necessary to implement the program and outlines the professionals involved in its execution.

While org has a large \$8M budget, overall art therapy program is still significant estimated at over \$106K which is nearly all direct to art therapists. It is possible grant would risk be considered small amid other "wraparound" offerings, but could still add value in furthering legitimacy of program, especially if funds for covered arts activities are comparably limited.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Cleveland Repertory Orchestra

Project Title: Cleveland Repertory Orchestra Inaugural Year

Score: 88

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

There is sufficient evidence the project will meaningfully and authentically engage its stated community. The programming is inviting and accessible, it authentically engages diverse members of the orchestra. Additional detail of how the orchestra builds meaningful relationships beyond stating the diversity within the repertoire (such as examples of responding to the community needs and sharing power for selecting rep) would have been overwhelming evidence of public benefit.

Would like to hear more about the reception of the first concert in May - how is the community responding to this type of programming? Would love to see them get to a place where they can pay their orchestra members and staff.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

I commend the applicant for giving a comprehensive and compelling overview of the 2022-23 season. Equitable pathways for underrepresented voices within classical music is an urgent need and the thoughtful programming of the proposed concerts struck me as being dynamic and inclusive of a vibrant set of voices. The applicant stated that they intend to change the perception of classical music in the Cleveland area — this proposal led me to believe they are capable of doing just that.

I very much appreciated the exemplary level of detail and clarity provided regarding the planned concert series. The narrative, augmented by highly relevant work samples, allowed me to gain a sense of the project's inspiration, artistic, and cultural vibrancy.

There is overwhelming evidence that the project will inspire and challenge its community. The team is diverse and qualified, the commissioning of new work helps ensure fresh programming, and the repertoire chosen shows evidence of the orgs commitment to authentically engage a diverse community.

Appreciate the discussion among different groups with the expertise to select compositions and their authentic engagement in community. Collaborators are diverse and represent the audiences being recognized and served. Appreciate that they include both am

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

There is sufficient evidence the org is able to successfully plan and manage the project. I have concerns about how realistic and appropriate the budget is. The marketing investment appears under resourced for an inaugural season of concerts reaching 1,500 people. More specific detail for income other than 'other grant sources' (which funders? confirmed or pending?) would provide additional confidence the new org has the ability raise funds to support the entire project and CAC match.

Great goal to attract new members through diverse selections and to measure why the audience attended the performance. Would like to know more about the diversity of the orchestra members. Organization seems aware of the importance of co-creating programming that is representative of its audience.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Cleveland Seed Bank

Project Title: Sowing Seeds of Community Resilience

Score: 84.75

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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The panelists who reviewed your application are **Diana Agostini, Patrice Johnson, Mitch Menchaca, Katelyn Simone**. Bios for the Written Panelists begin on page 5 of the [Panel Guide](#). Note: Panelist comments are presented in no particular order.

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

The applicant has a clear line up of partners for this project, and its impact reaches a variety of communities within the region engaging different populations. The connection between seeds and their cultural heritage is included in the curriculum of their workshops to acknowledge inequities and address them.

The applicant provided a strong narrative on who their community is for this project of people in the region who eats locally, grows food or participates in our local food system. I appreciated that the project will educate those who may be part of the applicant's community, but want a deeper understanding, or communities outside of the local food system who may be interested in learning more.

I appreciate the broad and intentional approach to community and the strong contextual framing of why seed saving is so relevant to everyone,. How do you reach community members who are not already seed enthusiasts?

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

The application shows innovation and challenges the public by inviting them to think about seeds in relation to other challenges our communities are facing. In addition the inclusion of educational opportunities, the arts, and access to seeds, create a positive and welcoming environment. The concept of seed saving as a cultural act itself is an inspiring one!

Co-creation, collaboration, and a holistic approach to equity are clearly integral parts of the project.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Budget is clear and adequate goals and measurements provided. Hopefully allocations to artists and educators can be increased in the future!

Good funding from multiple sources.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Cleveland Shakespeare Festival

Project Title: Summer Outdoor Free Shakespeare

Score: 81.5

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

I was struck by the applicant's dedication to rural and urban communities. It was clear that the organization has thought deeply about the audiences they serve and how to best bring their events and mission to them. This awareness of audiences and geographical divisions within Cuyahoga County made me confident as a reader that the proposed project has public benefit that can continue to grow and respond to the communities it will serve.

There is sufficient evidence the project will meaningfully engage its community. The thoughtful distribution of venues reflects using knowledge of its community to drive its work. The events are price accessible (free) and inviting to their community and the general public. It is less clear how the org is building and strengthening relationships with its community, the evidence provided only speaks with an intention to not be intimidating, and inclusion in an events calendar.

How are they communicating the importance of Shakespeare to reach new audiences? Why should someone attend this festival, especially someone who doesn't see themselves represented in this type of theatre? Appreciate that they perform in various spaces across the city and that admission is free to reduce barriers.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

Although I applaud this applicant for calling out and attending to barriers deriving from language & Eurocentric norms, receiving more information on the directors and how they will be chosen would aid in determining artistic and cultural vibrancy.

There is sufficient evidence the project will inspire and challenge its community. The team are qualified to carry out the project and serve a diverse community. The org has developed the project with authenticity - as evidenced in how they propose to position the classic texts to have meaning and impact on contemporary audiences. There is a lack of detail in how they will keep programming fresh or include principles of co-creation, mutuality, or collaboration with their community.

Really glad to hear cast members are diverse. How diverse is the planning committee? Also appreciate their innovative approaches to Shakespeare and would love to hear more about how they are approaching this. Good reflection going on by the organization - in making Shakespeare more accessible and diversifying performers.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Producing touring theatrical productions is labor intensive and often requires a specialized skillset from those producing the productions. I would have like to have read more about the delineation of technical and administrative responsibilities within the organization as fair labor practices are becoming an increasingly important DEI topic within theatrical spaces.

This applicant's narrative clearly demonstrates a stalwart commitment to free performances along with an intention to pay actors, providing an understanding of their organizational capacity abilities.

There is sufficient evidence the org is able to successfully plan and manage the project. They have a long track record recruiting and retaining qualified professionals and volunteers to deliver their work. The budget is realistic and provides pathway to meeting the CAC match. Their goal lacks detail on HOW the plan to achieve an increase in audience.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Cleveland Silent Film Festival and Colloquium

Project Title: Second Annual Cleveland Silent Film Festival and Colloquium

Score: 85.25

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

To ensure an impartial and transparent application review process, CAC convened an online panel of arts and cultural professionals from outside the region who evaluated and scored eligible applications.

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Final grant amounts were calculated by using the panelists score as the percent of the original request granted. Scores under 75 were not recommended for funding.

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

I was impressed by the breadth of the project and the amount of thought that has gone into the expansion of the festival — especially given that this was the festival's first year! The applicant has a clear and compelling vision that is enmeshed with Cleveland history and is developing a deep sense of accessibility (I was so excited to read that ASL interpreters will be provided for next year's festival!). The festival has a clear public benefit and speaks to the character of Cuyahoga county.

I appreciate this applicant's intention to source international films and ethnically diversified offerings. The inclusion of prospective films names aided in determining public benefit.

There is sufficient evidence the project will meaningfully and authentically engage its community. The partnerships with culturally-specific film organizations demonstrates knowledge of the community to drive its work. The project is accessible and inviting to the community and general public with a range of free and paid events. Incorporating ASL interpretation evidences efforts to be inclusive of diverse populations. The definition of community is generalized and vague, however.

How diverse is the history of silent film? Appreciate that they are also featuring contemporary and international films that connect with broader audiences. Great opportunity for composers and musicians. One free concert; is it in an accessible location? How is the free concert being marketed to the community to reach new audiences?

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

There is sufficient evidence that the organization is able to create a quality project that inspires and challenges its community. The use of audience surveys evidences a process of reflections and expansion of programs in quantity and region demonstrates how the programming is fresh. Additional detail for the diversity of the qualified arts professionals involved would have made the evidence overwhelming.

How diverse is the planning committee and musicians? Hire established musicians for quality, but how could this be a learning opportunity for younger musicians and composers? I like that local musicians are involved.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Given the expansive scope of the festival, I would have like to have gotten a clearer sense fo administrative and organizational leadership within the organization.

I encourage this applicant to be more careful when providing budget information, as the total project budget figure does not align with expense detail totals.

There is overwhelming evidence of the orgs ability to plan and manage the project successfully. The budget is realistic and has a strong investment in marketing. The goal provided shows how the organization will evolve beyond completing the project.

Diverse match and robust budget. Would like to hear more about the diversity of the planning team and musicians involved. Organization will need to work hard to be relevant to underrepresented communities.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Cleveland TOPS Swingband

Project Title: Keeping Seniors Swinging "Big Band Music By Seniors, For Seniors, (& Juniors Too !) "

Score: 80.25

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

This applicant's narrative clearly demonstrates an admirable commitment to providing concerts regardless of each venue's ability to pay, harkening to the project's public benefit.

There is sufficient evidence that the project will meaningfully and authentically engage its community. The way the organization partners, collaborates and accommodates its partner venues demonstrates that the org responds to and respects its community. Additional detail on how 12 concerts in senior centers will serve 7000 people, and HOW they will attract and engage young people (though they are clearly qualified to do so) would have made the evidence of public benefit overwhelming.

Glad they also explore contemporary music to engage new audiences and demographics. How do they pick contemporary songs; do kids pick? The band is made up of exactly the age demographic they are performing to, which I think would be really enjoyable for both the band and audience. Do they play any other music that might resonate with different cultural groups?

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

From the application, it was not always clear how community partners and musical repertoire are selected. Even if the season is in the beginning planning stages, as a reader I would have loved to have read more about how outreach is done to senior communities in Cuyahoga county. Some specificity in how younger participants are incorporated into programming and performances would have been appreciated as I found the intergenerational aspect of the proposal to be compelling!

Although it took me a little time to find audio samples on your website, I'm glad I did. It would have been great if the URL for the song samples page had been included as a work sample.

There is sufficient evidence the project will inspire its community. The audience feedback they receive shows a process of reflection. It is evident the volunteer artists involved approach the work with principles of mutuality and authenticity in how they connect with seniors through the music. Additional evidence of how the project will challenge the community or how programming evolves after 17 years would have been overwhelming evidence of artistic vibrancy.

Great feedback from audiences, but unsure of cultural diversity. How diverse is the makeup of the band, board, audience? Great they work with youth; might be fun to perform with youth sometime.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

There is sufficient evidence the org is able to successfully plan and manage the project. The budget is realistic, there are clear sources for CAC Match. The team of volunteers are qualified, and there's evidence the organization can attract and retain qualified members over a long track record. Providing a goal and measurement that is different than the project, would have made evidence of capacity overwhelming.

Glad they will use the funds to pay their musicians. Would like to see them engage more diverse board members and audiences.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Cleveland Uncommon Sound Project

Project Title: Re:Sound New and Experimental Music Festival 2023

Score: 94.25

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

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The panelists who reviewed your application are **Karla Centeno, Maria Jenkins, Channie Jones, Lisa Leiberling**. Bios for the Written Panelists begin on page 5 of the [Panel Guide](#). Note: Panelist comments are presented in no particular order.

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

The organization has a good understanding of their external and internal audiences; they show evidence of engaging both in a thoughtful way such as catalyzing platforms for expression, presenting BIPOC artists, compensation for selection panel, and more. The public benefit extend beyond just the regional reach, including national and international impact on "new music."

With the sliding scale ticket price, the organization seems to have a strong and equitable plan for how they can meet their financial responsibilities while also removing barriers for participation.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

The proposal shows good evidence of inspiring and challenging the community. There seems to be thought consideration of the artists and creating a supportive environment that enables creation, and thus, audience engagement and impact.

I appreciate that the applicant has clearly outlined the audiences that will be served and how they will support the careers of the artists they work with. The applicant made a strong case that their program meets the funding criteria of collaboration and authentic engagement. The process of reflection was well described in the applicant's goals section.

The festival has a good inclusive open call and selection panel process. The supporting documents highlighted the blend of the local and national artists sound and composers' vision.

The organization seems to have an inclusive plan for how they will attract and choose artists, which seems thoughtfully designed to result in a diverse event, both in terms of personal perspectives and artistic practices.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Strong evidence that the organization has the capacity to do the project well. Good supportive materials! In regards to budget, there is 0 for administrative personnel, which makes me wonder how the managing director and assistance managing director are paid as well as the other workers.

Significant attention appears to have been paid to feedback from past event, which will likely lead to increased audience engagement as people see that their thoughts and ideas are important to the organization. Also, the bulk of the budget is being used to pay artists, which is money well spent.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Cleveland Wind Symphony

Project Title: The Cleveland Winds 2022 Concert Series

Score: 77.25

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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The panelists who reviewed your application are **Diana Agostini, Patrice Johnson, Mitch Menchaca, Katelyn Simone**. Bios for the Written Panelists begin on page 5 of the [Panel Guide](#). Note: Panelist comments are presented in no particular order.

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

The application shows understanding and responsiveness to the community as a driving factor to their work. The level of accessibility is also deepened through livestreams and recordings. The organization shows intentional activities to engage a diverse team of arts and cultural professionals.

I appreciated their tiered levels of community. First, those musicians who play, then students, and then the general public with a love for wind band music. I also like that they share their concerts with the youth wind symphony. A great way to grow a future of players. Question on their total number of expected participants and/or audience members. It states 60, unclear if that is the number of players or was it a typo.

The ensemble is clearly important to those who perform in it. There doesn't seem to be a concerted effort to build or broaden community relationships, despite the stated goal of the project being to increase audience size.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

The application shows evidence of a process of reflection to ensure fresh programming. It also shows evidence of using principles to engage a diverse team of arts and cultural professionals and of building the capacity of youth interested in the arts through the involvement of a diverse group of students.

The inclusiveness of the students from a wide variety of schools promotes collaboration and learning throughout the community.

Great recordings in the support materials. However, I would have preferred a video concert of just the wind symphony. The cellist was the primary focus and the wind band music seemed to take a back seat.

It's not clear to me how the project leverages community collaboration or equitably engages a diverse team of arts professionals.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

The project provides employment opportunities for a diverse team (teachers, amateur musicians, students). It also shows the intention to implement evaluation criteria. The budget is realistic and clear with a clear plan for matching

Question on the budget. The applicant stated their annual budget is \$3,000, but the project is \$10,000 with some in-kind. It doesn't read that this is the first year producing these concerts, so I wondered if the annual budget was entered incorrectly.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Cleveland Women's Orchestra

Project Title: 88th Anniversary Community Concert at Severance Hall

Score: 80.75

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

There is sufficient evidence the project will meaningfully and authentically engage the community. The event is accessible and inviting to their community and public by offering a range of prices and free tickets to partners. The ongoing work described to understand, respond, and engage its musician members through its Diversity Policy and Committee is clear. Additional detail of how the project will strengthen relationships with audiences in its community would have been overwhelming evidence.

The venue itself and the lowest price of \$12 is still inaccessible to many populations, but it sounds like other events are more accessible. Appreciate they established a Diversity Policy/Committee. Would like to know more about the music they select and if it's relevant to the community, in addition to the demographics of their performers to ensure the community feels represented in the programming.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

There is sufficient evidence the project will inspire its community. The team of artists are highly qualified to serve their community. Additional detail of how the project will challenge audiences, and systems used for reflection on repertoire to ensure programming is fresh after 87 years would have been overwhelming evidence. The current MD is clearly qualified, but in future, identifying a woman to lead the CWO would strengthen the evidence of diversity and equity in their projects.

Provides an outlet for women musicians and also hires freelance performers. Prestigious performance space seems to be a great opportunity for these musicians. Has there been an evaluation of audiences not served or communities not represented in the orchestra? Unclear on diversity of collaborators. Music Director is male - wouldn't it be more powerful as a completely women-run organization? The women don't even pick the music?

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

The applicant did a commendable job of outlining how operational responsibilities are delegated. While the CWO was founded with a clear eye towards inclusion at the time, I would have appreciated the opportunity to read how that dedication to inclusion is evolving within the organization. The proposed project is a mainstay within the applicant's programming — I was left wondering if the anniversary concert includes time for the participants to reflect on the CWO's storied history.

This applicant's response about the team and numerous committees tasked with undertaking administrative work, was greatly useful in instilling confidence and determining the organizational capacity.

There is sufficient evidence the org can successfully plan and manage the project. The org has demonstrated over many years their ability to recruit and retain qualified professionals and volunteers on the board and in the orchestra to complete similar projects. The budget is realistic with clear evidence of meeting the CAC match. Providing a goal and measurement of progress that is different from the proposed project would have been overwhelming evidence of capacity.

Organization has a lot of support from volunteers, the board, and the orchestra members. Would like to hear the goals of the Diversity Policy/Committee and what the organization has identified to improve their processes and infrastructure.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: CollectivExpress

Project Title: Community Engagement and Youth Programs

Score: 86.75

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

I was impressed by the breadth of arts and events covered and programmed by the applicant through the Pop-Up Outreach events described. The commitment to making the organization's programming mobile to better serve and engage with communities within the Greater Cleveland area speaks to a great deal of public benefit. Additionally, the holistic approach to programming that addresses many different needs of the communities served was especially commendable.

There is overwhelming evidence the project will meaningfully and authentically engage its communities. The research approach described to address specific needs of each community demonstrates how the org uses knowledge of its community to drive its work, and evidences how their events respect and engage with community. The events are accessible and inviting. Additional detail of specific relationships sought to build or strengthen through the project would have supported a stronger score.

Very smart to partner with other organizations to add a creative arts layer to already existing community events rather than trying to do their own programming with limited capacity. I'd like a better understanding or examples of how they meet unique community needs. As described, their band performing seems like a one-size-fits-all approach rather than collaborating with the community to ensure the event meets the community's unique needs?

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

Although I was able to get a sense of the applicant's artistic and cultural vibrancy in regard to the band and open mic, the support materials and narrative didn't help me to understand how/ who delivers the visual arts activities.

There is strong evidence of this project inspiring and challenging its community. Use of the open mic approach ensures principles of mutuality and co-creation are clearly in practice. There is clear evidence of qualified artists ability to carry out the project and serve a diverse audience.

I appreciate that they are engaging local artists, but would like more information on how these artists are identified and how they are meaningfully engaged. Open mic is an interesting way to address community issues. How else are they researching community needs? Not everyone would be comfortable expressing opinions at an open mic.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

The optional info clarified this applicant's robust partnership model on an overall organizational level. Since the project dates are the entire grant period, I found it difficult to discern the timeline and exact events that will comprise the project. Although the total project expenses are listed as \$15K, the expense table lays out \$39K and income at nearly \$47K. Regardless, it was clear the organization is revenue minded and has a solid plan in place if CAC does not fully fund the project.

There is sufficient evidence of the orgs ability to successfully plan and manage the project. The budget is realistic and evidence of meeting the CAC match is clear. Detail of how the expected net revenues from the project might further support the org's mission or additional support to the project as contingency, would strengthen the appropriateness of the budget. Providing a goal and measurement other than the project itself would have been overwhelming evidence of capacity.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

Diverse match. Massive budget for arts and culture professionals - would like to hear more about how they are engaged meaningfully. Overall a really great organization with great goals. They seem to really understand meaningful engagement and co-creation with the community. I appreciate the artist-centered focus of an artist-run organization.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Colors+Youth Center

Project Title: The Art of Drag

Score: 94.75

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

Applicant has shown a clear vision for using the arts to connect the artists, students and attendees in a supportive work.

Target audience is described clearly. The benefit is outlined in the narrative and demonstrates collaboration, understanding, and a desire to build community.

“Drag Story Time” project draws from traditions of performance in drag culture, making for a thoughtful pairing of arts and literacy, in a way that is also educational, covering topics of gender expression and LGBTQ+ history.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

The project is designed to provide services where participants have an opportunity to develop an understanding of drag guided by fellow community members with experience. Moreover, the narrative outlines the need for a program offering a space for LGBTQ+ youth to engage in artistic activities.

Bios of primary performers featured on a recurring basis help to illustrate how youth are also given opportunity to develop ongoing supportive relationships engaging with artists. Mention of hate speech incidents are discomfoting yet also illuminate organization’s continued commitment to need for support to the population.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Overall really strong application. There is clear understanding of the community they serve and an investment in understanding the needs of that community. Programming is intentional and well executed.

While the budget has a clear description of the expenses and the organization describes the calculations behind the costs there is no description of the other expenses. The team in charge of implementing the program has extensive experience implementing such programs and the organization demonstrates a need for the services.

Budget is straightforward in aligning with number of monthly instances and associated costs. Organization is already at \$220K in budget after only 5 years. Steady growth may benefit from relationship with mentioned affiliation with established national organization.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Comité Mexicano

Project Title: Cleveland Style Alebrijes

Score: 86.75

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

The organization is deeply committed to its intended community as evident in its history and mission and the workshops that explore popular Mexican Art. The organization understand the power of cultural exchange and its impact for both Mexican residents and other participants. The integration of the Cleveland style shows that the organization is attempting to be relevant and more accessible.

Appreciate the importance of rooting the workshop in diverse cultural traditions, breaking down biases through dialogue, and creating relationships with artists and non-artists through co-learning experiences.

This project demonstrates a clear understanding of both a specific community (residents of Mexican heritage) and a larger regional community (Cleveland) and has a well-thought out plan for how to create a cultural exchange between the two.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

More elaboration would have helped paint a picture of arts vibrancy. Additionally, it would have been to discuss how the art instructor would engage with the community.

As this project builds upon past events, the organization is engaging with reflective processes to help drive programming in a way that will likely yield meaningful engagement and experiences for participants.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Good evidence of organizational capacity. The budget has a large allocation for marketing even though there are only 25 expected participants and Hildebrandt Collective will help advertise. More information on how the funds would be allocated would help clarify the distribution of funds and help justify high allocation amounts for a singular workshop that will reach 25 people.

Although the capacity of the applicant to execute the program was established, the budget and what it was meant to cover was confusing. The number of workshops and the extent of artist involvement was not clearly outlined, and the budget seems unrealistically high for a workshop serving 25 people.

As this project invites participants to explore their own artistic style to create a new technique informed by cultural practices, it is inherently inclusive, collaborative, and designed to elicit personal connections to the experience.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Community Cup Classic Foundation

Project Title: Negro League Soul: Oral Portraits of the Black Baseball Experience

Score: 79.75

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

To ensure an impartial and transparent application review process, CAC convened an online panel of arts and cultural professionals from outside the region who evaluated and scored eligible applications.

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

The application shows the understanding and respect of the community as a driving force for their work. The application also shows how the organization is building partnerships with different members of the community including libraries and schools, to engage a diverse population.

The applicant did a great job explaining the why of the program (i.e., the community's history of baseball and the history of the Negro League. However, how the program will build and strengthen meaningful relationships with the community/audiences is vague. The narrative is written in a passive way. Can they share some narratives to strengthen their case from their presentations in 2021 as provided in the support material?

I appreciate all the collaboration with the Guardians, libraries, and school districts, and the intention to connect powerfully across these and all Cleveland communities. It would be helpful to know more about the steps that will be taken to accomplish this.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

The project dates were not specified. They specified the full grant period.

The cultural vibrancy and value of this project leaps right off the page and the programs will be deeply rooted in expert knowledge of local and national history and sports. It would be great to know more specifics about leadership credentials and how the programs will be planned.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

The application shows evidence of providing employment opportunities to engage a diverse team that is qualified to complete the project. It shows plans to implement progress measurements to achieve the goals. The budget is realistic and appropriate with a clear plan to reach the match requirement.

Budget spends a large percentage of the money on administrative.

It is somewhat difficult to assess the organizational capacity without more detail on internal procedures and the number and scope of events.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Connecting for Kids of Westlake OH

Project Title: Music Therapy & More 2023

Score: 93.5

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

Clear evidence of power sharing with community as they have listened to needs and responded. The program is also very well curated with the community as foundational to the structure. It is really wonderful that that staff communicates with the parents and offers resources, showing an investment in the community beyond the classes.

The applicant made a strong case that their program responds to the needs of their community and provides an inclusive and accessible experience for participants. Expanding the program to a wider geographical area demonstrates continuing efforts to reach diverse populations.

The public benefit of this program is multifactorial, in terms of possible relationship building, both in terms of direct participants (children, caregivers, and music therapists) but also indirect participants (siblings, friends, library staff, and members of the public at the library)

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

Strong evidence of arts and cultural vibrancy. Emphasizing working with parents shows longevity of impact-- teaching those that can teach others. The program design is very comprehensive and there is good evidence of inspiring their community.

I would have liked to see evidence that the applicant is using equitable principles in their recruitment of the music therapists and specialists who will carry out the project. The applicant could have also spoke more directly to the cultural vibrancy funding criteria of co-creation and collaboration.

The professional background of the program music therapists isn't included in the application or website. Include additional information about the music therapist, program offerings and how the feedback from the survey's influence the curriculum choices ex. genre, style, period, culture. Clarify the role the hosting organization's (library) staff has in program facilitation. ex. staff training to provide instructional support to the music therapist.

The programming appears to utilize an inclusive team to design a program that meets a variety of needs and offers tools and techniques that have the potential to motivate meaningful growth and development through the arts. This would seem to be enriching

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Lots of indication of strong organization capacity. Solid and balanced budget.

More information about how the curriculum development, feedback from survey, and instruction

The use of participant survey that focuses on adult's perceived ability to deploy what they have learned, rather than focusing on the child is likely very welcomed by families and would likely raise their confidence, and willingness to continue participation in the program. It also reduces any "performance anxiety" that could happen for the children.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Coventry PEACE Campus

Project Title: PEACE Pops - A Quarterly Experience of Art and Community

Score: 83.75

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

The project is clearly described, intentional ways to benefit different groups are defined by engagement with partners like other organizations and artists and its themed events targeting a variety of groups. Efforts to be inclusive address geography and its link to accessibility to arts.

The application isn't clear on the umbrella organization as it relates to the quarterly pop-up events. Character counts can be a hinderance on telling an organization's story but I had to go to the website to better understand the scope of Coventry PEACE, which reads as a venue for tenant nonprofits and collectives. The community narrative seems to rely on the tenants bringing in their audiences. I would like to have learned more about the partnership with the neighborhood business district.

I appreciate Coventry PEACE's commitments to equitable representation across their audiences and artists as well as accessibility and artist compensation.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

Thoughtfulness in regular planning sessions and sharing of responsibilities among old and new arts nonprofits to provide fresh programming.

Not a lot of information provided in the narrative and they could have shared information of the kinds of programs presented in the past. The support materials were intriguing, but didn't share the art or experiences presented in the video montages.

Coventry PEACE is clearly led by arts professionals and community leaders. The high degree of collaboration with tenant organizations and multiple feedback loops will feed into compelling, interactive events. There is so much intention not just around the vibrant art and artists featured, but the audience experience, as in the example of experiencing new art in an accessible way. It would be great to hear more about how program decisions are finalized.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Organization's make up shows ability to successfully plan the project. Still a new hub, but strong collaborative structure through its tenants. Opportunities are there to leverage these partnerships and gather/share data on demographics/outreach results etc.

Organization has been in existence for a long period of time and has changed it's impact and programs to adapt throughout the years.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Coventry Village Special Improvement District

Project Title: Coventry Village Summer Event Series

Score: 82.5

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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The panelists who reviewed your application are **Marisa Arellano, Conrhonda Baker, Brad Carlin, Lindsay Keast**. Bios for the Written Panelists begin on page 5 of the [Panel Guide](#). Note: Panelist comments are presented in no particular order.

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

There is overwhelming evidence the project will meaningfully and authentically engage its community. Efforts to provide wide varieties of cultural and artistic expression that resemble the residents of Coventry Village demonstrates how they use knowledge of their community to drive its work, and their efforts to be inclusive and engage diverse audiences. The events are price accessible and inviting to the general public inside and outside of their geographic community.

Designed in partnership with target communities - would like more information on how these partnerships are executed and to know more about how they are serving the diverse demographics of their area. How are relationships maintained after the summer series? I appreciate their goals to elevate the voices of their residents and to bring in new ideas. I think it would also be interesting to amplify local voices outside of the district.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

The variety of programming and community partners was striking and made me, as a reader and outside eye, certain that the summer event series is a responsive and dynamic block of programming that draws the community together. The engagement of professional artist like Don Davis, in tandem with popular events struck me as a balancing act that provides cultural enrichment while also being an entertaining summer staple for the community the programming serves.

There is sufficient evidence of the project inspiring its communities specific examples, for how the project challenges its community would have been overwhelming evidence. There is evidence of principles of collaboration and co-creation with community, and qualified arts professionals able to carry out the project. Specific examples of how they 'nurture' and 'partner' with community, perhaps through their processes of reflection would have been stronger evidence of vitality.

Programming seems collaborative with diverse representation. Does not seem particularly innovative, so I'd like to hear more about "challenging the neighborhood to try something new." Application would benefit from focusing on one portion of their summer programming to really hone in on artistic and cultural goals for the district.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

This applicant's budget was difficult to understand and didn't help me discern their organizational capacity. If the event is \$40K and only \$10K is projected in income, then from where do they anticipate sourcing the remaining funds? Additionally, the response to how CAC funds would be used lists over \$35K worth of expenses - way above the potential \$5K grant amount. Overall, I advise the applicant to be more careful when completing their budget and financial responses.

I appreciate that program staff have built relationships and a reputation for authentic engagement. Organization seems aware of the importance of co-creation. Engaging the community in new experiences and uplifting local voices is a stronger goal than reaching more people. I appreciate the large budget allocated to paying artists and performers.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: DANCEVERT

Project Title: EVERT ARTS-INTEGRATED EDUCATION

Score: 89.75

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

Organization displays a strong understanding of curricula building, community gathering, and teaching strategies. They know their community and have a track record of serving marginalized communities. Addition statistics such as how many students have been served, how many schools have they reached ect would make this proposal stronger.

The applicant clearly described how the project is inclusive and will benefit a diverse community and audience.

Centering the program in public schools, especially those in under-resourced communities, would seem to deliver inclusive programming that removes as many barriers to participation as possible.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

Good indication of arts and culture vibrancy. It would have been good to add stats behind claims such as how are student's more academically motivated and engaged, for example. Adding quotes adds validity to the impact of the program.

It would have been helpful if the applicant further described the way the teaching artists collaborate with school partners and the process for assessment and reflection.

Website is good example of the Evert arts integration instruction method, program offerings, and pre-K-curriculum. Include how the program design accommodates to the unique partnering school's artistic needs, program evaluation process, specific academic areas that test scores increased over 40%, and professional development testimonials from classroom instructors.

By creating learning through the arts, the program not only offers the opportunity for participants to discover future pathways for themselves as artists and creators, while owning their learning, but also offers opportunities for educators to grow their teaching toolboxes and enriches their personal engagement and growth.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Strong indication of organizational capacity. All team members seems qualified to execute a successful program. Adding additional information on budget allocation was very helpful in understanding the budget.

As the program requires collaboration with schools and personnel, it is creating the potential for even broader relationship building, inclusive planning practices, and recognition of different perspectives that can fuel success.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio

Project Title: Diversity Through the Arts

Score: 84.75

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

It would have been helpful if information was provided as to how the program is accessible and inviting to people with disabilities in the application or on the applicant's website. At a minimum, having a web page outlining accommodations available would have been great, even if it noted things as simple as having wheelchair accessible venues and parking, how to request accommodations, and that the organization welcomes people with disabilities as artists and participants.

I think your work is important at the crucial time in our national dialogue. I love that it is focused on youth, who are our future, and uses the arts as a vehicle of transformation. Putting the work in public spaces and providing bus passes are crucial to get youth involved, especially if transportation is an issue. I like also that you are looking at ways to circumvent the issues around CRT misinformation in order to connect with the youth.

DCNEO is very clear about how they hope to execute the mission of their organization through arts and culture utilizing this project. They clearly share their goals, target audience, partners, as well as potential accessibility points and needs to accommodate barriers. Though they share the types of art forms they hope to include, I would be interested in hearing more about how the curriculum could be shared.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

Incorporating art into social justice work creates opportunities for thought, dialogue and growth not possible in other ways. Kudos for your work!

I like that you are paying the artists instead of asking for this work to be free. In addition, I like the use of the arts to help kids enter into a vital conversation that impacts our communities. In general, it would have been nice to see examples of the art work produced by youth in past trainings and/or the work of your teaching artist to better understand the potential art forms and creation process.

Would like to hear about how they hope to utilize arts and culture to best communicate and create a curriculum that teaches anti-racism to young folks, I would have been interested to learn more about what specific art forms, arts workers, and artist communities they wanted to include

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

DCNEO has strong capacity and experience on their team. With this said, I would suggested partnering with Cleveland arts organizations and artists with anti-racist principles and similar views for their project to further their mission.

It's great to see that this program is led by someone with a breadth of training and experience; however, it would be great to learn more about other team members that support the planning and logistic aspects of the program and how they work together in tandem with Dr. Graves to set goals and implement the project.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: East Cleveland Farmers' Market Preservation Society

Project Title: Community Learning Forest

Score: 77

CAC Grant Amount: \$2512

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

While this project sounds potentially intriguing, the application lacks specifics about building and strengthening meaningful relationship with schools, students and families. Nor was there information about how this program would be accessible and inclusive, particularly for students with disabilities and schools and families with socio-economic constraints.

I think it is great to create a food forest in your community that involves youth in its production. Was curious about the type of relationships "partners of the Coit Road Farmers Market working in the schools" have to get an idea students and families that may be interested in the work.

The project clearly states how and what they hope to accomplish. With this being said, I would have been interested to learn more about the project's intentions, community and connections. Though they do share the schools they will be partnering with, I would have like to learn more about the intentions of how this project hopes to connect with East Cleveland communities broadly. With this said, the plan of action for the project is very clear.

Outside of what the participants will learn/experience, I was not able to get a sense of how this project will build and strengthen relationships among its community; I suggest that the applicant share more regarding this.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

The communities identified for this project are families and schools. However, there is no information about how the communities have expressed interest in, provided input for program development, or are or will be supporting it. It would have been helpful to have specifics showing the applicant's youth education expertise. It doesn't appear there are established relationships with specific schools, families and/or youth groups who were collaborating and co-creating this new program.

Thank you for the site plan. Would have liked to see some examples of the work of the landscape design firm that will be leading the work, Imitating Eden Garden Design. Some discussion of how the planning process would engage community would also be helpful.

Though the project plans are very clear, I would have liked to learn more about how food access and culture can be taught through this specific programming. Specific plans or examples around how community members and students would be given opportunities for creative input and/or leadership could have also painted a strong picture.

It would be great to learn more about any collaboration this project seeks with its community to help develop and shape this program. It would also be helpful to learn more about any process of reflection that the team undertakes to ensure fresh programming

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Given the organization's core community of adult gardeners and consumers and given that the project team has skillsets in adult education, it would have been better to focus this project around expanding learning opportunities for adults.

The organization has a strong understanding of how project needs with be deligated and shared.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Edward E. Parker Museum of Art

Project Title: "A Family Affair" Intergenerational Art Class

Score: 85.75

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

Would have been beneficial to know more about the demographics of the community within the geographic area they indicated. National panelists may not be familiar with what those geographic/neighborhood parameters actually mean for the people living within those areas. Additionally, I can infer the benefits of intergenerational art-making amongst families, but I would have appreciated some more description of the intention behind this type of project for the benefit of the community.

The organization demonstrates experience building a community of participants with a wide range of skill. Additionally, the activities planned aim to build self-confidence by artmaking.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

Connecting families through art is a wonderful goal. It is unclear from the application if the families are working together on a project that has significant collaboration around family interests or whether they are simply "in the same room doing art".

The video link of the interview with the artist/founder was incredibly beneficial for context of the work and vibrancy of the mission.

The artists leading the project has experience implementing similar projects and had incorporated feedback from previous iterations of the program to suit the needs of program participants.

Six-week program allows for self-directed flexibility in visual exploration and even some culinary. Work samples are very helpful to illustrate community and demographics of participants, structure of program, and video shows significance of Edward Parker in focusing on African-American Art. This six-week program would seemingly be a strong complement to senior program that already occurs on a biweekly basis.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

It would have been helpful to know more about the other artists, beyond Ed Parker, that would be instructing during this project. The stated goal is not really a goal as much as it is a description of need. While it provides some helpful context, it does not provide a defined goal for which to measure impact.

The organization clearly knows how to manage and implement the program described in the application. However, the goal lacks specific metrics.

Organization appears to solicit regular feedback and inquire "favorites" to inform future programs.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Empowering Epilepsy

Project Title: Empowering Through the Arts

Score: 88.5

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

Including caregivers as part of the defined community shows a dedication to the entire community.

The applicant has a clear understanding and respect for the community they define. The need for this project is explained thoroughly.

The program's impact is described multiple times across the narrative and addresses a need in the community.

Organization is expanding from art therapy to add a makers program. Existing programs include 3 classes per month (2 with people living with epilepsy and loved ones, and 1 for caretakers) with lead artist who is a registered art therapist, licensed counselor, and epilepsy survivor.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

I would have liked to hear more about how this project was selected. The applicant's intent is very clear, but I have question about the engagement with the community to determine that this was the project to accomplished the goals they have. Also, what types of work will be undertaken in the art therapy sessions? I would have liked to know more about the art-making itself.

The programs timeline is described thoroughly and incorporates an artists with the right experience to serve the target audience. However, the narrative doesn't mention opportunities for professional development or feedback collection.

Application notes permanent Art Therapy room at facility and ability to flex up to support larger groups if need, as well as commitment to exhibiting work onsite for participants who choose not to take. This demonstrates significance that the organization places on arts activity as offering to population.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

I appreciate the intention to let participants define their own goals for what success looks like for themselves. The benefit is very well defined; I would have appreciated more definition of what it means to "illustrate to people with epilepsy that there is more to life than living with seizures" - is this assessed based on the execution of the project? Will post-event surveys go out for program reflection. I would have liked more information on the co-creation and mutuality of the project.

The team implementing the program has experience in the field and is connected with the target population. While the goal outlines a specific expected outcome the data collection process seems not measurable.

Minimal \$5 per class primarily covers materials and also incents attendance. Applicant description of budget could be strengthened if describing how grant amount specifically would apply to the project budget. Unclear what past participation has been, but outreach population to area seems robust and program is only one year old.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Euclid Beach Park Now

Project Title: Remembering The Sights & Sounds of Euclid Beach Park

Score: 82

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

It would have been helpful if information was provided as to how the program is accessible and inviting to people with disabilities in the application or on the applicant's website. At a minimum, having a web page outlining accommodations available would have been great, even if it noted things as simple as having wheelchair accessible venues and parking, how to request accommodations, and that the organization welcomes people with disabilities as artists and attendees.

It is clear based on your numbers that this event is highly sought after by the community. Given the doors of this amusement park closed nearly 53 years ago, I am curious how the work will evolve moving forward as those directly connected to the park experiences lessen more in the years to come. In addition, you indicated you would hope to gather 25 stories. Given the park attendance ranged between 3000-5000, I would encourage you to increase that number.

Goals of the project are very clear and reach is direct. They hope to reach not only those who are familiar with Euclid Beach Park, but those who have never been. They hope to further their reach towards broad audiences. Through this free memorabilia project, they hope to attract more audiences. I want to learn more about potential partner organizations, who they hope to market to, and more information about the specific community Euclid Beach Park is in and how it may have evolved.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

Because only general information regarding project team organizational mission-related qualifications was provided it was difficult to assess project expertise. It would have been helpful to have expertise for project-specific responsibilities instead. Also the community for this project was very broadly defined yet included goals for multi-generational and culturally diverse participation. Therefore, it was difficult to determine how well the applicant builds meaningful community relationships.

I love a good community celebration! Reviewing your budget, I did not see a line item that the work of those providing entertainment and am very curious if your entertainment personnel is providing their services for free? In your budget you've listed "a significant amount of funding would go to Advertising and Marketing. To enhance the show, we would add memorabilia rental from some private collectors for the day." As such, I would have liked to more resources go to support the entertainment.

Euclid Beach Amusement Park has created memories for many Clevelanders. With being said, I would be interested in learning more about DEI embodiment within this project, the community it served (Collinwood neighborhood), and how artistic/creative practice will be utilized.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Based on its application, Euclid Beach Park Now has a strong and valuable mission as the caretaker of an important piece of Cleveland's historical memory.

Strong communication of who will be involved; including staff, volunteer, community organizations, organizers, partners, and more,

Thank you for sharing details on the board's expertise, in addition to collaborative partners. However, I was not able to get a sense of how the team works together to implement the project, and in what way the volunteers are part of the project.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Famicos Foundation

Project Title: Winter Clev Arts, Culture, & Literacy Expo (WCACALE)

Score: 86.25

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

The organization has a clear understanding of the demographics and interest of the population served. The narrative outlines a desire to invite and welcome other age groups and has an outreach plan.

Affordable housing and services organization to present winter event that features activities in art and literacy and exhibit opportunities for youth, in a community with high representation of African American families and 30% in poverty. It's appreciated the organization references that despite low voter inclination, that residents are often civically involved and share a sense of community, with block clubs as one indicator.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

The event has already identified potential partners and there is a strategy in place for providing a plethora of opportunities for other arts organizations to connect with the people attending the event. There is no mention of capacity building opportunities for arts professionals.

Expo images show vibrancy of cultural performers showing range of forms and lots of community participation. Unclear if expo is part of Glenville festival or if these are separate.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

It is unclear if the applicant is relying entirely on a facebook survey for its success metrics. If so, it is unclear how they will balance an age skewed metric with the need to include and engage more youth.

The goal parameters are fairly vague. They state they will know they have made progress via the survey feedback, but there is no definition of what that actually means. What are they hoping to hear from the survey feedback? How is it distributed? What are the questions being asked/what do they want to know?

The goal outlined is not specific enough and there is no description about the process or information collected via the survey.

Grant will support direct funding to artists. The event is annual and already has an approved school site to host. Inclusion of lists of past performance genres and attendance numbers suggest operational success and consistency, with upcoming year's goal as within reach. Unsure why mention of producing video to document Glenville festival is mentioned in context of grant, however at least indicates the organization is observing value of digital assets to reflect work in the future.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Far West Center

Project Title: AHH! Open Art Studio - Supporting Recovery from Mental Illness through Creative Arts

Score: 93.5

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

The narrative outlines the program's impact and need. Additionally, it has a track record of serving the target audience and knowing how to connect with them and incorporate their feedback.

Refreshing framing of arts engagement as a veritable vehicle for building emotional and mental resiliency, for populations who experience issues with “isolation, coping skills, and self-image”. Program is available weekly and resulting work is displayed in-house and three public exhibits per year, free to both participants and viewers.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

The activities described are in line with the criterial and the staff working on the project has the necessary experience to serve the target audience. Yet there are no sections that describe professional development for artists/therapists involved.

Intensive program for 12 participants per session means depth v. breadth of impact, with narrative describing artists having options to experiment with a variety of visual medium. Mention of program admin and arts instruction led by counselors each with over 25 years of experience reaffirms esteem of program.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

I especially appreciated the clear goals and metric for measuring those goals in this application.

This is a very solid application. There are clearly defined goals, community understanding is well defined.

Goal and metrics are specifics. Moreover, the budget clearly outlines the use of funds.

Grant amount, while modest, will go to support significant areas of project in art materials and partial benefits for staff.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Food Strong

Project Title: Food Strong School Beautification Initiative

Score: 91

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

It would have been helpful if information was provided as to how the program is accessible and inviting to people with disabilities in the application or on the applicant's website. At least, having a web page outlining accommodations available would have been great, even if it noted things as simple as having a wheelchair accessible site and parking, how to request accommodations, adaptive gardening techniques and that the organization welcomes people with disabilities as participants.

I like that you aren't limiting your audience to just the schools that participate but making space for the general public as well. I appreciate you including the demographics of the population you serve to get a better understanding of the work. I am not sure why you mentioned the issues around suicide and mental health, unless you plan to use food/ gardening as a means to support students' mental and physical wellness.

Food Strong is very clear about the communities their hope to serve, their populations, and community need. Addressing these factors, they were clear about how they hope to use creativity and art to encourage health, wellness, and food culture. In addition, they hope to invite broader community like teachers, family, food partners etc. Overall, very clearly share positive public benefit.

I commend the applicant's ability to very clearly articulate and demonstrate their knowledge of the community it serves; it is also clear that this project serve as a means to strengthen the relationship with and amongst its students and schools.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

Congratulations on partnering with the Cleveland Metropolitan School District on School Gardens! Because of the power-sharing/collaboration criteria, it would have been very helpful to have specifics about how this project helps schools meet Ohio Learning Standards, other learning outcomes, and/or other school goals.

Your work is important to addressing food insecurity and food deserts in the Cleveland area. It is clear from the video and other supplemental materials that your organization has impact on the life of the youth you encounter. I like that you value the work of your artists and are paying them for their services, as well as incorporating art into your mission to address food access issues.

Clearly talks about the artist they will be working with and how they hope to use art to cultivate conversations around team-building, social emotion learning, connection to food and health, as well as connecting broader communities.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

To determine arts and cultural professionals qualifications, it would have been helpful to read about project team members with specific arts education credentials/expertise. Project artists were noted as a group without specifics regarding project expertise too. Because someone is an artist, does not mean they have expertise to work with students in educational settings.

Staff and roles are clearly denoted. Individuals who would be working on the project are already decided. I appreciated knowing what each individual team member was bringing into the space.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Fostering Hope Ohio

Project Title: Arts Programming for Childhood Experiences, Health & Wellness, and Community Involvement

Score: 92.5

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

I appreciated the applicant's description of youth integration into the planning process.

Clear sharing of power in the creation of their work by allowing youth to be directly involved in the planning/decision-making process. There is a solid understanding of the community and the applicant's responsiveness to them is strong.

Clear understanding of the population served, their needs, and the demographics.

While description of overall organization seems general in how they serve their population, narrative indicates discrete program areas for engaging in visual art, music, and arts business mentorship in which youth can self-direct based on interest. Program has an already-defined group of youth served, meaning that outreach is not an issue, and programs are provided free of charge eliminating financial barriers to participate.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

It is clear that applicant analyzes and includes the interests of the community

The program demonstrates a robust calendar of activities aimed at serving the target population and incorporating partnerships with organizations that have extensive experience implementing programs on their own. There is no description of professional development opportunities for art therapy professionals.

Value of artistic engagement with youth is described generally. Even if multiple artists are contracted, application could be strengthened by sharing an example work and credential of teaching artist as representative.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

It would have been helpful to get a picture of how the professional artists are selected and what backgrounds they reflecting (discipline, race, etc.). I'm not sure the math breakdown for how funds are being spent, by percentage, is accurate - it is a bit confusing and not well explained.

The organization demonstrates a clear goal and a strategy to collect surveys that are informative and compliant with art therapy standards.

Budget line items relative to the grant funds requested are clear and detailed. It would be helpful to be clearer on structural relationships with partnering agencies like Applewood as to better understand how travel factors into program delivery.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Friends of the East Cleveland Public Library

Project Title: East Cleveland Community Arts Mentorship Program (ECCAMP): Enriching Young Artists in East Cleveland

Score: 86.5

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

Project addresses a need in the community backed up by data and shows growth in recruitment of students. Engagement of professional artists to mentor students is achieved through an intentional inclusive recruitment strategy leveraging public libraries. Project is clearly described, as is its planning overview.

ECCAMP is intentionally addressing a strong community need for arts access. It seems students also have wonderful access to resources, instruments, and instructors.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

Project supports professionals in the arts and inspires youth to consider an involvement in the field. More information on diversity within the mentors' group would strengthen even further the application.

Well thought out program with strong history of success.

This program sounds amazing and the application could be stronger with support materials or narrative that highlighted the curriculum, instruction, or performances. The link provided to the applicant's Facebook gave a glimpse into what these students benefit from this program, but the link to the Friend webpage gave no insight to the program, curriculum, sign up, etc. Just need stronger details for how the project inspires and challenges its community.

It would be useful to know who the musicians are, how they are chosen, and what types of instruction are offered. Is the instruction private or do they learn/perform as ensembles?

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Strong commitment to pay professionals who mentor youth is reflected by the project's budget. Clear goals and realistic plan to achieve them.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: From Me 2 U

Project Title: Through Their Eyes: Obtaining Understanding Through Photographic Expression and Self-Exploration

Score: 88.5

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

Very few organizations see artistic talents as being inherent in the historically marginalized communities this applicant serves. Kudos for seeing the opportunities and implementing programming to build artistic skill and self-understanding through photography. While the goal identified is important, measurement is complex. Given this application's shortness consider using a measurable section of the overarching goal in future applications to better show strong knowledge of evaluation practices.

I like you are working with vulnerable populations, whose needs have increased with the isolation brought on by the pandemic. I like that you are shifting to co-create with your community and that you have the necessary mental health services on-hand to support the youth.

From Me 2 U beautifully illustrates the importance of their project to their community. Utilizing creative and healing practices to work with participant's feelings, relationships to social issues, lifestyle, and more, the project clearly walks through the mental resources/menus, as well as participants' needs.

I very much appreciate the applicant's clear demonstration and specificity of the community it serves; their level of respect for the community is also apparent in that they are attentive to evolving needs, are actively listening, and are responding in ways that address these needs.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

Would love to see more your organization connected to and working with artists to support the important work you are doing.

Engaging people from marginalized populations, they hope to utilize healing practices to affect policy and community change. From Me 2 U's intentions for this project are clearly stated.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

The organization has been able to move the work forward and clearly has impact in the community. In general, I think it would be beneficial to partner with arts organizations and artists as you continue to evolve your programming.

Would have been interested to learn more about specific individuals in stated roles, but clearly illustrates which each role would be doing in this project.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Front Steps Housing and Services

Project Title: Expression Through Art - Art Therapy to Address Chronic Homelessness and Housing Insecurity

Score: 93.25

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

Kudos for a project that sees artistic talent and expression as inherent to community members for whom traditional arts programs are neither accessible nor inviting. This application clearly defines its community and demonstrates very well how it builds strong, respectful and authentic relationships with community members, though power-sharing is not really addressed.

You are offering a valuable service to the community. It would have been great to hear feedback from some of the participants on the impact the art participation has on them.

Front Steps Housing Services illustrates the impact art therapy has on clients, many of those experiencing poverty, housing insecurity, and other social issues. Working with a variety of partners, they hope to serve unhoused populations, with the understandings that COVID-19 has increased these traumas. Grant strongly and clearly illustrates the impact their programmatic services has on the populations they serve.

The level of respect and compassion that this applicant has for its defined community is very apparent; it is also clear that their work is driven in response to their needs and in doing so, are empowering these individuals with the mental health and skills support to set them on a more positive path.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

Given the importance of qualified arts and cultural professionals for this project, the application does a very good job of providing specifics regarding credentials and expertise. Given the demographics of project participants, the application would be even better if it noted where participants could see themselves in team and/or organizational representatives.

I like to see you are funding the art therapists. I would have loved to see examples from the previous art shows.

The organization is clear about the art therapies they provide to their participants and how it impacts their broader communities. They are clear that they use art therapy to support the healing journeys, discoveries, and growth of their clients.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Your organization has clearly been able to adapt its services over time. In general, I would encourage you to also seek the other funding you mentioned even if you received the CAC grant to further support your art-based endeavors.

Front Steps addresses the people that will be working on this project, as well as any additional roles that may be needed. The organizational duties and intents are very clear.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: FrontLine Service

Project Title: Art Workshops for Adults Who Have Experienced Homelessness and Families of Incarcerated Parents

Score: 93.25

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

To ensure an impartial and transparent application review process, CAC convened an online panel of arts and cultural professionals from outside the region who evaluated and scored eligible applications.

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

Kudos for a project that sees artistic talent and expression as inherent to community members for whom traditional arts programs are neither accessible nor inviting. This application clearly defines its community and demonstrates very well how it builds strong, respectful and authentic relationships with community members. While power-sharing with participants was briefly noted for displaying artwork, the application would be stronger if collaboration/power-sharing was covered in more depth.

I like that you are supporting incarcerated families and using art as vehicle to build bridges and strengthening their ties. I am a little curious about the racial demographics of the populations you serve through these programs.

The art workshop is free and accessible to the individuals and community members they hope to target for this programming. Grant is very clear about the curriculum, needs, artists, programming, and partnership goals for impact. Grant is very clear about creating accessible opportunities and centering communities that have experiences homelessness and incarceration. The arts practitioners partnerships is clearly described, and shows how much their commitment to the program and impact.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

The specifics proved about arts and cultural professionals identified clearly demonstrates they have the expertise to lead the workshops outlined. Given the demographics of project participants, the application would be even better if it noted where participants could see themselves in team and/or organizational representatives.

I like that you are paying the artists for their services. 53 workshops!

Artistic intentions for this project are clear and speaks to the exploration participants can have. By fostering connection and joy, artistic hope to create a safe environment.

I appreciate the sense of flexibility this program provides to its community; it would be great to learn more about any process of reflection that occurs, which helps reinforce, shape, or inform future sessions.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Good work.

As the artists will be the key leaders on this project, learning about their process and goals were interesting. I would be interested to learn more about the FrontLine staff that would be part of this project.

It is encouraging to see that the applicant collaborates with other groups that are tied directly to the intended participants to support the engagement and logistical aspects of this program.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: FutureHeights

Project Title: Heights Music Hop 2023

Score: 89.25

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

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The panelists who reviewed your application are **Karla Centeno, Maria Jenkins, Channie Jones, Lisa Leiberling**. Bios for the Written Panelists begin on page 5 of the [Panel Guide](#). Note: Panelist comments are presented in no particular order.

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

The organization knows its community very well, is very invested, and power shares. The project is very comprehensive, benefitting artists, merchants and neighborhoods. Adding statistical data was great to include and helped contextualize the importance and impact of the project.

As someone from outside the region, I appreciate that the applicant took the time to describe the neighborhood and communities they serve in detail.

By basing the program directly in the community that it is intended to serve, this program offers the potential to not enrich and engage those people and artists who directly participate in programming, but also the businesses and organizations there as well, which may result in new relationships for the future growth of the community.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

There is good evidence of the program being successful, thus showing its impact. It would have been good to elaborate a bit more on the impact it has on participants and attendees of the event though. Adding testimonials, for example, would have been good to add.

It would have been helpful if the applicant provided more information about how the program serves the local musicians and performing artists, as well as the process of reflection involved in year to year changes.

The evaluation of the festival's economic impact is thorough.

With a focus on artists who are creating original work (which is likely speaking to their lived experience in this community), it seems this program is likely to yield a high level of engagement and meaningful experiences for all involved.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Good indication of strong organizational capacity. All listed team members have the experience to produce the event. Budget seems very well balanced and it is good to see a big allocation to arts and cultural professionals.

The organization has a deep knowledge of their community and this program appears thoughtfully planned and equitably designed to truly meet the needs and celebrate the talents of those they intend to engage

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Gardening in the District

Project Title: Qunicy's Paint OFF

Score: 82.25

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

I wish the application had been a bit clearer on how the community will be involved in the planning and execution of the fence painting.

The responses to this section on Public Benefit are fairly vague. Additionally, it sounds like this is a project they believe will support and revitalize the neighborhoods, but there is no indication that they've had conversations with residents about whether this is the right method.

The organization demonstrates an understanding of the program's impact and has a plan to involve the community and gather their feedback as a source material the the mural on the fence.

Organization has site-specific focus benefiting from existing relationships with artists Brandon Graves and Aletha Kings, the organization's youth corps, and seemingly one other location they led a similar project. Details on engagement would move this from a neighborhood beautification project toward one where the art is a more central activity.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

The application is unclear about whether the fence design will represent the community in some way, or be simply a decorative piece.

Also, providing some support materials that showcase the art, garden, etc. for reference would have been helpful to get a better understanding of the impact. Perhaps before/after shots of what these spaces have look(ed) like with org involvement.

The organization has identified the impact of art on the community and plans to work with artists who will paint the fence and beautify the neighborhood.

Project could be strengthened with visual examples of artists' past work and clearer depiction of how residents will be involved in idea generation for mural.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

In the goal setting, it would have been beneficial for a defined benchmark for residents reached. They indicate how they will track, but I'd like to know more about what their goal is and how they intend to accomplish that through outreach, etc.

While there is a strategy to collect information the goal is not specific.

Some parts of narrative read as though art-based outreach is dually serving as marketing for garden.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: German Music Society

Project Title: Jagerfest 2023

Score: 86.25

CAC Grant Amount: \$1600

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

It would have been helpful if information was provided as to how the program is accessible and inviting to people with disabilities in the application or on the applicant's website. At a minimum, having a web page outlining accommodations available would have been great, even if it noted things as simple as having wheelchair accessible venues and parking, how to request accommodations, and that the organization welcomes people with disabilities as artists and audience.

Very clear that you understand the community you serve (German-American) and are deeply connected to the work. That's okay as it seems your strategy to connect with other arts groups outside your genre may impact your connection to the wider community. While I do see you've mentioned working with other similar bands, I would also encourage you to perform / partner occasionally with music groups / events outside your genre so those not familiar with this music form can experience it.

DMV is very specific about the communities they hope to share as well as the culture they hope to share with those interested in German music. As they perform a very specific style of music, they clearly state how they hope to connect with other groups. With this being said, I would be interested in learning who those specific partnerships are. They share that diversity would increase based on reach and visibility. I would suggest further investing where those connection may be established.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

Congratulations on having such strong relationships with the musicians and audience members who love this type of music. It is easy to see why people engage with your programming year in and year out!

I think you are clear about the type of music you perform and the narrow audience this serves. That's okay in my opinion as you do seek to connect the past and present through the musical art form. I am curious if more of a shared leadership with the overall band to select materials would also impact how the work connects across the generations and a broader audience.

I appreciate the group acknowledging safety concerns especially amongst the communities that they serve while in the COVID-19 pandemic. With this being said, I would have been interested to hear more about how they hope to serve these community members artistically, more information about their artistic partners, as well as how they hope to expand their reach.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

It is clear that everyone assists with making this event happen and you have a mix of grant funding and earned income to support the work.

They are very clear about the logistics of the event, budget, as well as set up. As they have a clear set of artists that they bring into the ensemble, I think that they strongly state their goals with the event.

Thank you for sharing information about the team involved in the programming and planning process; as far the day-of event goes, it would be great to learn more about how volunteers are selected or recruited, and the expertise or experience level of the volunteers tasked with ticketing, marketing, and other event logistics.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Greater Cleveland Film Commission

Project Title: DEI Documentary Spotlight

Score: 89.25

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

Kudos for focusing on historically underrepresented filmmakers and stories. It would have been great to see information as to how programming is accessible and inviting to people with disabilities as well, even on the applicant's website. At a minimum, having a web page outlining the accommodations available to attendees would have been so helpful, even if it noted things as simple as wheelchair accessible venues and parking and that people with disabilities are welcome as artists and audience.

I really like the work approach to the work and your honesty about trying to connect with communities you currently do not serve. While I understand this is only your 3rd year, you indicated, "...the hope is to broaden our outreach to untapped audiences" and develop "meaningful relationships" I am very curious how this manifested with the 2 previous efforts. I appreciate the additional materials as they helped me understand your intentionality in creating space for community and dialogue.

It is evident and clear that the GCFC is interested in furthering their goal of fostering a more diverse and equitable films landscape in Northeastern Ohio. They share their broader work of connecting with local artists, organizations, and activists to increase economic viability of the film industry. I would be interested in learning more about how this specific project could foster new partnerships, connect selected filmmakers with partners based on their needs or affinity, etc.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

I was curious how you choose the film that gets selected for the series. Is there some form of community selection process or is this purely the choice of the staff? More clarity on this front would be useful.

I appreciate GCFC utilizing their wide reach platform to showcase and highlight DEI centered films. As they shared, documentaries and filmmaking is a strong way to showcase stories and cultivate empathy amongst audiences.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

It's really great to see that this team has undergone racial equity training together as a staff; I'm sure that has and will continue to impact the way in which this project and other activities of the organization are organized. It would be great to learn more about how that training has helped inform, change, or shape some of the decision-making around this particular project.

You are clearly small but mighty based on the work you've been able to accomplish and the impact you have on your community in meeting your mission and goals. I was also happy to see you've participated in the Groundwater training and encourage you to continue your anti-racism / equity initiatives with additional training.

The organization have five staff members who are committed to the mission and vision of the organization. In addition, they are personally invested in DEI training and internal learning.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Group Plan Commission

Project Title: Square Sounds 2023

Score: 90.25

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

It would have been helpful if information was provided as to how the program is accessible and inviting to people with disabilities in the application or on the applicant's website. At a minimum, having a web page outlining accommodations available would have been great, even if it noted things as simple as having wheelchair accessible venues and parking, how to request accommodations, and that the organization welcomes people with disabilities as artists and attendees.

Live music is always the best. Live music in public spaces is divine. I like that the barrier between performers and audience is "erased" to allow the community of all ages to connect to the work at various levels. I like the flexibility in how you operate in the space to accommodate various events.

Utilizing public space, it is illustrated clearly that Square Sounds hopes to create an accessible platform for Clevelanders to experience music and creative expression. From their intentions of free programming, inviting atmosphere through the physical look, all the way to referrals and outreach, their broad reach and intent are colorfully described.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

While these concerts sound intriguing and the communities engaged are fairly well defined, it is not clear how this project aligns with the community collaboration/power-sharing evaluation criteria. There is no information about audience feedback or communications strategies. If local musicians comprise a project community, there should be specifics regarding the ways the applicant communicates and builds relationships with this group as a whole, like publicizing performance opportunities.

I like that "the community of musicians is assembled through relationship building and grows through suggestions, referrals, outreach, and open submissions." I would encourage you to do a little research as well to ensure the work doesn't become siloed, as there may be musicians and genre out there that are not in the networks described above and/or do not feel like they have space / welcomed in the square.

"There is no 'backstage'", shows that they hope to break barrier between "stage" musicians and "audience" participants. Their cultural vibrancy is further clear as they hope to create spaces for experiential and audience experience moments. No matter the age, it seems that this can be a very positive program for all people who attend.

I appreciate that the physical environment and lack of demarcation allows for even greater opportunity and potential for this program to engage and collaborate with its community.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

I would encourage that you ensure others in the organization beyond the general manager also understand how to execute the planning of this important event to increase its stability.

Staff and capacity is clear and direct. I appreciate that they speak to the experience of each staff member and their commitment to the Cleveland community.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Harvard Community Services Center

Project Title: Harvard's Healing Arts Festival (HHAF)

Score: 89

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

I appreciate how the applicant is responsive to the feedback from the community and utilizing it to improve on event support/programming.

The organization has been working within the community for years and understands the best way to plan and execute an event that celebrates the culture and fosters spaces for community-building, networking, and pride. Moreover the demographic information in the narrative in tandem to the anecdotal evidence demonstrates a commitment to an event dedicated to amplify the voices within the community.

Organization hosts local annual arts-focused event reportedly attended by 3,000. It is interesting they mention income and age distribution of visitors. Application would be strengthened by drawing more explicit comparison of event attendance and engagement compared to area demographics.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

The one thing that is unclear from the application is whether artists/bands represent or come from the local community.

I would have liked to know more about the professional musicians, artists, etc that the applicant org hires for this event.

Arts and culture are an essential element of the event and are included to drive attendance. The organization has already identified the necessary art teachers, bands, and dj that will provide services and concerts during the event.

Event includes hiring live musicians and bands as well as artists to teach free classes. Work sample video is very helpful in showing a wide variety of visitors engaging with vendors, people of all ages enjoying music performance and social dance outdoors

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

The stated goal is mainly just the execution of the event(s); I would have liked to see a more defined and specific goal - perhaps about audience reach or certain event engagement.

The goal is not specific or measurable yet the organization has a track record of organizing the event.

While event has long lead time, there is not much detail in application for how involved the broader community is in developing the event, though it is clear program seems to have a strong following. Charge to participating vendors appears to help with revenue, offsetting operational costs with event being free to visitors.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Hasani Management Inc

Project Title: The Black History Oratorical and Spoken Word Workshops and Contest

Score: 80.25

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

The supporting documents were not helpful in understanding the scope of the project (youtube link broken). I found it difficult to figure out the details of how this program works - lots of broad strokes given, but not a lot of detail.

Application is concisely written. Narrative would suggest organization is experienced if in 8th annual run of program. Still, its scope seems very expansive given grant budget request and does not provide much detail on how the 20-25 participants would be identified and engaged to participate.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

The program states to deliver storytelling, musicology, art therapy, dance, and dance therapy, authentic culinary expression and tasting, poetry, cultural differences, and stories of specific iconic trends within their respective cultures within the African Diaspora. Application could be strengthened with working examples demonstrating the organization's prior experience engaging participants, as video link is broken.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

The expenses/request info was unclear (although spelled out in the text)

Goal has some SMARTIE aspects, but I was confused by the grading system for participants' art - the purpose is not clear; it wasn't explained in the narrative. The CAC request line has another income source listed and the amount is lower than their request. There are no expenses in the expense budget. There is description in the budget narrative, but I would like to also have a better picture of who falls under the volunteers/additional staff umbrella - are artists in this category and paid?

Both the budget and the goals are not clear or specific.

The application budget expense section is left blank, though provides more detail in narrative on how grant funds would be spent.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Henry Johnson Center

Project Title: The Kings Art Kastle Program

Score: 88.75

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

To ensure an impartial and transparent application review process, CAC convened an online panel of arts and cultural professionals from outside the region who evaluated and scored eligible applications.

Panelists scored each application based on the Funding Criteria—Public Benefit, Artistic and Cultural Vibrancy and Organizational Capacity—with an emphasis on Public Benefit. For more details regarding the panel scoring process please refer to page 3 of the [Panel Guide](#).

Requests of \$5,000 or less were reviewed via independent, written reviews, and many panelists left comments for the applicants. Below you will find the panel's scores and any feedback in response to your application.

The panelists who reviewed your application are **Sarah Corrin, LaShawnda Crowe Storm, Ami Scherson, Catherine Teixeira**. Bios for the Written Panelists begin on page 5 of the [Panel Guide](#). Note: Panelist comments are presented in no particular order.

Final grant amounts were calculated by using the panelists score as the percent of the original request granted. Scores under 75 were not recommended for funding.

Questions? Cuyahoga Arts & Culture is here to assist. Please contact:

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

This applicant clearly identifies, understands and builds meaningful relationships with the community for this project.

Your program clearly has impact on your community and I applaud your use of art as a process of healing. While I appreciate the focus around men & boys, I am very curious if you offer comparable program for women & girls, as well as mixed gendered families? You mention the neighborhood is 90% single-parent, African-American households, which often means these homes are headed by women. In addition, some of the visioning activities listed like "sip and paints" are geared towards adult.

Henry Johnson Center's Kings Art Kastle program is very clear about the communities they hope to serve, as well as the curriculum. Serving predominantly African American community members, this program hopes to bring families together to also improve income through participation. They hope to create a positive experiences and adults and children alike, creating a healthy and impactful environment for participants.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

While the qualifications of many team members clearly demonstrate their expertise for working on this project, it would have been helpful to have more information regarding the featured artist's expertise and role in this project. Kudos for ensuring that program participants can see themselves reflected in the project and organizational team.

I like that important role art plays in the work you do in transforming lives in your community. I would have liked to see some of the past artworks that fill the "Kings Kastle" In addition, to continue with the previous reflection, I would highly encourage you to expand this type of visioning programming to include mothers and daughters, as well as mothers and sons, if it does not currently exist within your programming.

Art and culture will be at the center of Kings Art Kastle's programming. The local artists intentions and work are clearly tied to the missions of the organization. The connection the mission of the program as well as the artist's expressive goals make for a very impactful partnership.

It seems like this project is well thought out and that one of its primary goals is to provide information/access to tools and resources available to its community; it would be great if the applicant should share more about any collaboration with the community members that occurred in the planning process that has helped inform the needs and therefore selection of resources that the event will highlight and encourage participation in.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Clearly states the staff and individuals who will be part of the program, as well as their specific roles and intentions.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Hispanic Police Officers Association

Project Title: Puerto Rican Expo 2023

Score: 87

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

To ensure an impartial and transparent application review process, CAC convened an online panel of arts and cultural professionals from outside the region who evaluated and scored eligible applications.

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The panelists who reviewed your application are **Carrie Elvey, Nikki Kirk, Melanie Wang**. Bios for the Written Panelists begin on page 5 of the [Panel Guide](#). Note: Panelist comments are presented in no particular order.

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

It is clear from the application that thought has been given to engaging the community in planning and execution, and that an underlying goal is to promote community bonding.

The intention behind the project is a good one; the applicant's responses leave me wanting more specific detail around how this event fosters dialogue between residents and public safety personnel, what are the tasks being taken up to allow folks to share ideas and problem solve.

Arts appear thoughtfully integrated, while acknowledging overall expo event is intended to be a gathering space, to bring civic information and important health/human services to residents. Community participation is encouraged through artmaking and creation of caravan floats created through resident collaboration. Applicant notes organization leadership is reflective of Hispanic heritage.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

I would like to know more about who is leading the workshops, how the content of the workshops was selected. I have questions about the co-creation and mutuality with community involvement in the programming.

Application takes effort to link various arts based activities with ways to engage multi-generations with Puerto Rican cultural tradition, in a community area with apparent concentration of Latinx residents. Listing of past presenters demonstrates curation that includes experienced and nationally-known artists. Application could be strengthened with at least one uploaded or otherwise specific example of actual presented artist work or activity, versus artist credentials.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Again, would like to know how the artists involved in this project were selected and what the role the board or staff/association members is within this project's parameters. Also, I would have liked to see examples from previous Expos or other arts and culture events to get a frame of reference. No art & cultural support materials were provided, so it left me wanting more. There is a disconnect for me of why this assoc. is putting on an arts/cultural event, so more info would have been useful.

Event is free to participate. Application would be strengthened if specifying how the requested grant amount specifically would benefit an already sizeable budget.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Historic Warehouse District Development Corporation

Project Title: Warehouse Wednesday: Courtyard Crawl

Score: 70.5

CAC Grant Amount: \$0

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The panelists who reviewed your application are **Diana Agostini, Patrice Johnson, Mitch Menchaca, Katelyn Simone**. Bios for the Written Panelists begin on page 5 of the [Panel Guide](#). Note: Panelist comments are presented in no particular order.

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

Responsive to community's feedback in combining the two events into one. Other ways in which the project aims to be inclusive? Free is not necessarily a synonym of accessible/inclusive.

I appreciated that the organization listened to their community about the kinds of events they wanted when creating this program. I also appreciated the link to the website that gave a snapshot of the organization, this particular program, it's line up, etc.

It would be great to understand how community relationships are built intentionally, beyond offering free activities. The event does seem to have a strong community following.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

How is the community challenged by the project? More information on process behind creation of the programs and recruitment of diverse artists would strengthen the application.

With a music focus, it would be helpful to understand what music or artists are featured, beyond "diverse", as well as how and by whom these are selected.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Board represents a big resource for the organization through its expertise and makeup. No mention of efforts to address DEI within organizational processes or structures. Appropriate budget with 1/3 going to artists.

Good attendance for this free community event.

Unclear how the planning process will unfold.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: India Fest USA

Project Title: India Festival USA 2023 - Celebrating Diversity

Score: 87.5

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

It would have been helpful if information was provided as to how the program is accessible and inviting to people with disabilities in the application or on the applicant's website. At a minimum, having a web page outlining accommodations available would have been great, even if it noted things as simple as having wheelchair accessible venues and parking, how to request accommodations, and that the organization welcomes people with disabilities as artists and participants.

It is great to see you be able to move back to an in-person event. As the only festival in the NEO area that caters to Southeast Asian identity and culture. I like that you have reached the across the aisle and worked with other communities. I was curious if these partnerships were rooted in arts exchanges, performances at the festival, etc.?

Centering South Asian community, the IndiaFest USA hopes to provide a space of connective identity and cultural understanding through celebrating Indian art and music. With this being stated, they create also share their work with Black and Latinx community of Cleveland. I would be interested in learning more about specific key stakeholders (for example organizations they would be collaborating for with music therapists, school outreach candidates, etc.)

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

I would have liked a little more information on the types of performances / arts presented at the festival. Is the focus on "traditional" Indian dance, music, food or are there spaces for more contemporary forms of art like comedians, pop music, Bollywood, etc.? From your Facebook page, I could see most of the postings were of performances. Is there space for other types of art forms such as textiles, painting, etc.?

Artistic intention and want for holding cultural space is clear and evident. Providing accessibility through online streaming, this artistic and musical event shares a variety of South Asian art styles.

Thank you for sharing some details on the types of projects you were able to carry forth during the initial phases of the pandemic; I suggest that more details be shared regarding any process of reflection that occurred and whether the prior programs' successes/areas of improvement are helping inform the current project to ensure that it is fresh, relevant, and building on its impact and inspiration to the community.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Seems like the festival has grown significantly over the years. Good luck with future growth.

Staff roles and capacity are clearly stated and described. I would be interested in learning more about any volunteer or other roles needed for day of activities.

Thank you for describing your quantitative goal of reaching 3,000 people through this festival. Because one of the stated qualitative goals of this project and the larger mission is to create a better sense of belonging and amongst their community, I recommend that the applicant consider some additional ways to measure progress and success, beyond calculating the number of participants and attendees.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: International Women's Air & Space Museum

Project Title: Dinner with a Slice of History

Score: 88

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

This is a vibrant speaker series and certainly meet the criteria of sharing unique voices. I can't, however, determine if the application meet the public benefit criteria. Because the event is a paid dinner/speaker event, accessibility is limited (even with Zoom) to those who can pay, it is unclear how relationships are being built with this event.

Programming is clear and aims to connect with a plethora of stakeholders. While there is no info about the demographics of people participating in the program the speakers come from different backgrounds.

Community context for project and target population is described compellingly. Organization advances underrepresented narratives, noting only 7% of all pilots identify as female, and fewer still women of color. Project focuses on presentation more than active participation or co-creation.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

There is mention of women of color but not express goals or strategies for advancing racial diversity. Goal section could be strengthened by more closely following guidance of SMART goal-setting in identifying specific desired outcomes from grant investment, or providing an example of learning objectives, rather than restating the organization's broad thematic goals.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

The stated goal is not specific or measurable; I would have liked more clearly defined goals of the key objectives, reach of the programming, or other measurable outcomes.

Funding will support 13 year program with established operational history. Application makes clear explanation for how CAC added funds can enhance quality and reach of speakers presenting.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Italian Cultural Garden

Project Title: "Opera in the Italian Garden"

Score: 79.75

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

Responses to narrative questions regarding community connections were very vague and inferred that the art itself is the public benefit. However, the evaluation criteria focus on how well the applicant knows and builds strong meaningful relationships with its community – the people who like this type of concert. Identifying specific groups/types of people who like the event, specific communication strategies used, and/or how you find out what your audience likes would have been very helpful.

It's fabulous when we can resurrect a community tradition rooted in creating space for suppressed voices and use the new iteration to further expand and build bridges. It is even better when the arts serve as that vehicle of bridge building and cultural transformation.

Taking place in the Italian Cultural Garden, this program hopes to bring community members together through artistic programming. I would be interested in learn more about community partnerships, outreach ideas, accessibility ideas, and more.

I was not able to get a sense of the community being served. Outside of highlighting the location, no information was shared on any other defining attributes or affinities of the people that comprise the community was shared. I suggest that the applicant provide more specificity on the community it has or intends to serve.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

While the Cleveland Ballet and Opera ensure high quality artists for this concert, this proposal lacked information about the team members coordinating other aspects of this project. The name and specific experience of the artistic director, event coordinator (event safety; stage and dressing room space set-up, audience management, etc.), and marketing/publications coordinator information are missing. As a result, determining if the team is qualified to carry out this project isn't possible.

Beautiful work. I am curious how as the event evolved over time and has it done so as community's connection to the arts also transforms? I am happy to see that you are paying your performers. Too often they are asked to provide these valuable cultural insights for free.

Artistic intent is clear as they include a variety of local artists from Cleveland arts organizations. With this being said, I would be interested in learning more about how the program impacts the community and maybe how the community impacts the repertoire being selected.

I suggest that the applicant share more information on how it collaborates with its community to help develop and shape the program; it would also be helpful if the applicant could discuss any process of reflection that occurs to ensure fresh and relevant

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

It would have been helpful if information was provided as to how the program is accessible and inviting to people with disabilities in the application or on the applicant's website. At a minimum, having a web page outlining accommodations available would have been great, even if it noted things as simple as having a wheelchair accessible venue and finding accessible parking, how to request accommodations, and that the organization welcomes people with disabilities as artists and audience.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

In general, I would encourage you to continue to explore additional funding streams beyond CAC to further stabilize this important community treasure.

Would be interested in learning more about specific team members and their roles for this project.

I suggest that the applicant share more info on how the volunteers are recruited and their level of involvement in the planning/execution process. Because one of the stated goals is to provide this event for those who do not have access due to economic disparity (and not just for those with wealth/access), I suggest that the applicant be more specific in how it will measure success in this regard to ensure that it is meeting this goal and/or identifying any areas of improvement for the future.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Jewish Family Service Association of Cleveland Ohio

Project Title: Art As Medicine

Score: 89

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

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The panelists who reviewed your application are **Karla Centeno, Maria Jenkins, Channie Jones, Lisa Leiberling**. Bios for the Written Panelists begin on page 5 of the [Panel Guide](#). Note: Panelist comments are presented in no particular order.

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

The organization shows a long legacy of providing important services to a lot of folks. Since the demographic is varied, it would have been good to include examples of therapeutic approaches for the intended audiences. For example, what art strategies does the instruct employ when working with folks with schizophrenia. The program definitely feels accessible, thoughtful, and supportive of communities.

The applicant provided sufficient evidence that their program is inclusive, and that their work is drive by knowledge of and respect for the people they serve.

The project offers the potential to meaningfully impact both the individual participants and artists, but also the public at large who will have an opportunity to view the final art work. It also creates an opportunity to provide new tools for wellness to a community that the organization is already successfully engaging with.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

A very poetic response that indicates the power of art. Mentioning that the organization facilitates open ended thinking and stimulates the imagination was great to hear and seems appropriate for the audience. Adding more testimonials and statistics would have made this response stronger.

It is exciting to see a program that is deploying art to promote healing. I believe this will not only positively impact the participants, also inspire artists, directly and indirectly, to consider and hopefully lean into the larger role of art in our world.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Good indication of strong organizational capacity. Budget seems balanced. Arts and Culture professional allocation is high, reflecting the importance of the role within the program. Good work samples.

I would have liked to hear about how the team works together to produce the project, and how staff, interns and consultants are equitably recruited. In general, the narrative could have been clearer to more directly address the funding criteria. As someone unfamiliar with the organization and program, I found it difficult to understand the relationship of the program clients to the overall organization.

The team is incorporated of practitioners with strong expertise in the arts and medical fields.

It appears a broad group of highly knowledgable and skilled professionals have been planning this event, and a strong evaluation protocol is in place with very clear, data driven criteria to assess the efficacy of the program.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Kaboom Collective

Project Title: Kaboom Community Podcast Pilot Program

Score: 85.75

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

The organization is following their mission of amplifying collective humanity through this project. While clear that they intent to engage their community in building the podcast, no specific methodologies for engagement are mentioned. The project includes partnerships, to address diverse topics. Overall more information on how they plan on selecting topics/speakers based on community feedback would strengthen the application.

While not totally clear who the current community is - current and prospective students? - It seems that developing a community with which to engage is one of the aims of the project.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

The goal of sharing the stories of the how artistic ideas are brought to life, is in itself inspiring for listeners. Providing downloadable content will provide also further opportunities for reflection.

Unique concept to fill in a well-defined need in helping students learn real-life skills.

This project adds another level of programming for its students and offers an accessible artistic offering for the general public who are looking for new podcasts to enjoy. It offers both a product, but a learning moment for students to learn what it takes to produce content, as well as shares information relevant to what's happening in public life today.

The leadership is clearly well-qualified, and the project inherently builds arts and culture professionals.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

The budget is clear and the organization has the capacity needed to bring the project to life.

It would be helpful to have a better understanding of the planning and implementation process.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Lake Erie Institute

Project Title: Eco-Artist Series: Connecting to Nature through Art

Score: 74.25

CAC Grant Amount: \$0

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

The organization shows lots of evidence of being committed to its community and mission. It was a bit unclear in the public benefit section what the artist selection is but it's good to know they are recruiting diverse artists to diversify reach. It is also a bit unclear (in this section) what the project is and how it will play out so it is difficult to understand how the organization will engage the community.

The applicant provided little evidence as to how the project is responsive to the needs of the applicant's community, involves collaboration, power-sharing or other funding criteria. The applicant shared a goal of growing audiences, but the assessment plan does not reflect this. It would have been helpful to hear more about the "nuts and bolts" details of the project, i.e the format of the programs/videos, the distribution plan, etc.

Consideration of accessibility of online content, on site panel discussion, and marketing outreach to broader audience outside the LEI network as program goals.

The community is clearly defined, yet diffuse, as it is ideas and dispositions that make it a community, rather than geography or personal identity markers. This creates the potential for some unexpected relationship development between people who may not generally encounter each other in their daily lives, and art is always a good catalyst for such interactions.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

The response does not fully answer how the project will inspire and challenge the community; however, the section above answers this more directly. There is evidence that the organization is thoughtful in curating a set of artists that align with the mission and will be stimulating for the community.

By again focusing on a common belief system as opposed to identity markers, this creates the opportunity for a highly equitable approach to recruiting artists since they can be from anywhere and hold any person identity. It is their artistic practice and ideas that connects them to the project, which once more can create opportunities for engaging with a range of people.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

The team members seem equipped to realize the project. In the budget, it would have been good to see a higher arts and culture professional stipend for artists. 3,500 for 3 volunteers and 2 staff seems a bit high compared to the other allocations. More information on budget items would have helped clarify how the money will be spent.

The project has laid out very specific, yet seemingly reasonable goals that will easily be identified as met or unmet. The budget is clear and seems to appropriately allocate funds given the scope of the project.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Lakewood Young Filmmakers Academy

Project Title: Young Filmmakers Academy 2023 Summer Filmmaking Workshops

Score: 90

CAC Grant Amount: \$4950

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

More information about how you intend to engage a wider/more diverse audience would have been helpful.

The narrative outlines the program's impact and the demographics of the population served.

Relatively new organization articulates program structure clearly with flagship summer camp and unique elements that have mainstream appeal including a “Red Carpet” premiere experience open to the public. It is noteworthy that organization tracks demographic information and is committed to more Latinx outreach, though hard to gauge as a panelist what is typical of the population.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

Inclusion of titles and descriptions of works that students later earned awards for is compelling and demonstrates topical nature of content and the level of authorship and agency youth are encouraged to take on. Project translates very well to video work samples provided.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

The stated goal is essentially just executing the project - I would have liked them to dig deeper into the outcomes they hope to see. Additionally, success measurement could be determined by both them and the participants.

The goal described is not specific enough yet the organization has implemented this program in the past successfully.

Despite small organizational budget, it seems grant funding will support existing programs, making project reasonably aligned with operations. The program expenses detailed in explanation for fee-based seem reasonable given modest operations, though may introduce some barriers to participation. Application would be strengthened if \$ fee was disclosed per participant in addition to the ticketed revenue from film premiere.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: LakewoodAlive

Project Title: Front Porch Concert Series

Score: 89.5

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

There is a clear understanding of the community participating in the event and how the arts can be used as a tool to bring people together, foster community, and create a space for celebration.

Project has in-built community collaboration with annual concert series held for 13 years in partnership with Lakewood Public Library.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

Kudos on your DEI work and attempts to source diverse, local talent and pay them a fair wage.

I would have liked some information on the performers themselves - i.e. who are they and how were they (or will they be) selected.

Work samples demonstrate vibrant performers as a focal point for community gathering.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

The organization has a track record working within the community and is working on DEIA.

Operationally, the concept is clear and the project benefits from a built-in venue –yet, as an observation from the perspective of someone outside the area, is interesting that a public entity like the local library would look to a community partner to support programmatic financing.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Larchmere PorchFest

Project Title: Larchmere PorchFest 2023

Score: 87

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

The application mentions involvement of different Larchmere stakeholders in the planning of the festival through meetings and digital gathering of feedback. The application mentions hope in attracting different crowds, but no mention to intentional efforts to address DEI or principles to engage a diverse team of arts and cultural professionals.

I appreciate that the neighborhood has taken it up on themselves to use the arts to bring residents together and share an evening of music together. It really shows that the arts don't need a venue other than that of the front porch of a home or business. The photos in the support materials painted a fuller picture for me as the reader on the impact PorchFest has on the community. There is a long history of programming and this project embodies placemaking and placekeeping strategies.

I appreciate the intentional collaboration with community associations as well as outreach outside the neighborhood. There is clearly strong local support for this organic and communal event.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

The organization gathers community feedback for the planning process to ensure freshness in programming.

Could do more to engage a more diverse attendance.

It's great to hear about some of the music featured, that there is a selection process entry points for feedback. Between the hosts and roadies and other volunteers, there is a way for everyone to be involved.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

The budget is clear.

All of the detail around the planning process and team inspires a lot of confidence.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: LGBT Community Center Greater Cleveland

Project Title: Speak Out Stage at Pride in the CLE 2023

Score: 89.5

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

Applicant states a clear vision of inclusion, recognizing that there will be different views and experiences within the community. Thought has been given to searching for and including those voices.

It is great to see that the organization make-up reflects the community it serves and engages with.

The organization is connected to the target audience and has experience addressing their needs and creating events that foster community pride.

Description of org centered in “Gordon Square Arts District” as of 2019 is intriguing and underscores collaborative opportunity with a centrally-located site of both cultural and architectural significance. Grant will support cultural offerings within overall Pride programming, and several example partnerships are listed.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

Would have liked information on the performers themselves - how were they, or will they be, selected?

Event steering committee indicates commitment to collaborative curation. Application would be strengthened by including past lineup of performances, context of how many prior years of the Speak Out Stage involved committee selections, or even simply a list past committee members to demonstrate community perspective informing past decisions.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Overall, a solid application - thorough and informative. The state goal was well defined. The alternative to not getting full funding is to eliminate the program, which is something I would flag based on budget size & org income.

While the goal is not specific enough the organization has some strategies to measure the program's impact.

The detailed description of event organizer's role depicts applicant's operational expertise. It is interesting the applicant chose to prioritize production expenses as being covered by the grant before direct artists honoraria. It's true that for programs of this kind, rentals and equipment can be the largest expense, yet applicant also mentions considering eliminating arts from the budget if grant is not awarded. This is notable given that costs seem a very modest part of festival operations.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Little Italy Redevelopment Corporation

Project Title: Little Italy Summer and Holiday Art Walk

Score: 83

CAC Grant Amount: \$3200

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

It would have been helpful if information was provided as to how the program is accessible and inviting to people with disabilities in the application or on the applicant's website. At a minimum, having a web page outlining accommodations available would have been great, even if it noted things as simple as having wheelchair accessible sites and finding accessible parking, how to request accommodations, and that the organization welcomes people with disabilities as artists and attendees.

I love that the project has deep roots in the community and that participants in its planning are also connected to the actual event as vendors. I would be beneficial to get an idea of demographics. Lots of effort is focused on the vendors participation, but I think it would be beneficial moving forward to get some feedback from community on how the Art Walks serve their cultural needs and what they want to see happen in the years to come.

By providing public art events, it is clear that Little Italy Redevelopment hopes to not only center the Little Italy community and its culture, but also sharing broader experiences with the City of Cleveland. Would be interested in learning more about specific merchants, vendors, community partners, and more that make this event special.

I suggest that the applicant share more specific information about any particular attributes or affinities that define their particular community and of its attendees; additionally, any information on how they work to make the event accessible and inviting to the public would be helpful.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

I am struggling to see how the event connects to arts beyond the title "Art Walk." It would have been beneficial to get an idea of the type of art being presented for the public? Beyond what I can imagine is exquisite food, is the art only commercial galleries on exhibition? Are there street performers? Music in the streets? A tasting menu? I get the impression the focus is tilted towards the commercial aspect vs. sharing / celebration of Italian culture and being more community facing.

Would be interested in learning more about the cultural experiences that would be part of this event (i.e. specific artists, food, experiential opportunities, etc.)

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

I like that you have developed a process that has been foundational in the stability of the work for the past 35 yrs, as well as your ability to bring in and welcome new voices to expand the work organically. I am curious what have been some of those new voices and how has this impacted the event.

Would be interested in learning more about specific team members and individual roles that would impact the event itself.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: LYLESART

Project Title: ARTOGRAPHY (Community Photo Project)

Score: 97

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

A very well thought out project. It is good to see high impact numbers and multifaceted approaches to engagement (students, parents, artists, and community). It is also impressive to read that there is alignment with 5 parties. The organization seems to know their community very well and understands how to engage them with a ripple effect.

The applicant clearly and consistently addressed funding criteria in their narrative. They provided strong evidence that their project puts collaboration, power-sharing, capacity building, diversity and inclusivity front and center.

The idea of having publicly placed cameras accessible to anyone who wants to document their experiences seems like a very equitable and inclusive way to build new relationships with the public and discover unexpected connections with the community.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

There is strong evidence of arts and cultural vibrancy. It is clear that the project will inspire its intended audience (the students) and also inspire those who participate in the periphery. Having a website for the project is also a way of inspiring and creating a legacy for the project.

The incorporation of relevant societal issues and cultural viewpoints is prevalent in the program design. Include additional information about the mentorship aspect of the program and its impact on the participating students and local artists professional growth.

Creating opportunities for young people to access and interact with working artists seems like it would not only yield a rich artistic experience, but also create the possibility that future conversations could happen and young people's interest in careers in the arts could be fueled.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

More information on staff background and teaching artists would have been good to include in order to help panelists understand relevancy of people involved with the project. Not including this data, however, did not affect score as there is much evidence of organizational capacity. A well rounded budget and very nice response on what will happen if funds are not met.

The planning of the project appears to involve a range of stakeholders, including artists, educators and administrators, which likely will lead to a more inclusive program that meaningfully engages with a broad group of people.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Malachi Center

Project Title: Unity in the Community

Score: 90.5

CAC Grant Amount: \$4750

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

The applicant provided data and information that shows their deep understanding and commitment to the community they serve. Their own community (youth) is also involved in planning the event putting relationship building with the community at the core of their work. The program will have a deep benefit on underserved youth especially from the African American community.

The applicant understands its community that it serves. I appreciated the stats on the community and found it powerful to relay that some center staff are past participants that still call the community home. The applicant is also partnering with a group who will help the youth leadership plan this program to make it high quality for the community, which was great. The support materials helped make this a strong application.

This is a wonderful opportunity for young people to create collaboratively and offers a range of cultural activity to a broad audience. The community is well-defined.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

The organization provides evidence of creating meaningful partnerships to maintain an innovative approach to the program as well as challenging their participants through classes, education, and the creation of the event itself.

There is wonderful collaboration with local organizations. I would love to hear more about the youth leading the project are supported to make decisions and more specifically about how community feedback is gathered and incorporated. How does the project celebrate the art and strength of the community served?

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

The budget is realistic and appropriate to the endeavor. The application overall shows intentionality in creating a culture of belonging, in providing access to the arts to underserved youth, and in involving members of the community who too belong to the groups they serve speaking to representation both from instructors and in terms of what is being taught.

Strong organization that does a lot for the community.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: May Dugan Center

Project Title: May Dugan Center Arts Showcase

Score: 86

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

The description shows indication of providing impact. The public benefit section would have benefitted from more information on the project instead of the work the organization does.

The applicant provided sufficient evidence of the public benefit of the project through understanding of their community and by serving a diverse audience.

The attached Seniors on the Move update was a good overview of the program services and impact.

By planning these arts showcases to also connect with other community events (the tree lighting) seems likely to result in larger attendance, as well as creating an opportunity for people who may or may not be interested in the arts to tangentially engage with the arts. It is also lovely to create space for our senior citizens to be seen by their community and the public in general in a new way.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

Adding more information on previous success stories or stories of impact would have made this proposal stronger. Nevertheless, the program is very relevant to the intended audience and is planned with them at the center.

While the applicant met some of the artistic and cultural vibrancy funding criteria, it would have been helpful to hear how the project team works with clients collaboratively in the creative process or how it engages with arts professionals.

Provoking people to engage in an act of hope and creation even in the midst of mental health struggles, seems inherently resilient and inspiring, both to the creators and the caregivers.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

More information on staff involved with the project should have been included (i.e. adding who are they and how does their background and experience directly support the project). Budget looks good, however, there is no line item for arts and culture professionals. It is unclear if the music therapist is part of administrative staff or an arts and culture professional.

The program seems well thought out and very intentionally designed for the identified community the organization serves.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Men of Independence

Project Title: Youth Harmony Festival

Score: 80.5

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

The applicant provides evidence of partnership with school district music educators in the selection process of the participants of the project to tap into and provide access to diverse communities. More information about how the organization's makeup and diversity is key to understanding these targeted students would strengthen the application. Accessibility is important to the organization and is shown through the partnership and transportation efforts covered by the organization.

Good to focus on unserved communities and expose them to this form of music.

The applicant is trying to build the next generation of barbershop singers and audiences, which is great. They mentioned the pride in having inner-city youth sing with the Men of Independence; however, they didn't give information on where this program would take place or offer examples of communities they are already partnering with on this project.

The team is enthusiastic and eager to share this with students. I wonder how students not currently served by a music educator might find out about the project. It's great to hear that an eventual chorus might be a way to extend relationships with students beyond this festival.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

The organization is challenging itself in advancing more modern styles and harmonies. There is also an inspirational aspect from renowned singers teaching and singing next to inner youth students. More data on the principles used to engage a diverse group of professionals and on co-creation of the program would be useful information in support of the application.

I appreciate the inclusive approach to programming and to contextualizing barbershop harmony for today. How is the project collaborative with the community?

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: MidTown Cleveland

Project Title: MidTown Mixtape Vol. 5: Belonging and Joyful Celebration

Score: 91.75

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

There is strong evidence that the project will continue to impact the mid-city community. The organization not only knows its community very well but are also very invested in them, specially bringing together and elevating Black and Asian communities. Adding quotes made this proposal stronger. The project details were somewhat buried under other context; therefore, being more direct with the project details is advised for future applications. This did not impact the score negatively, though.

The applicant clearly explained the public benefit of the project, including a demonstrated knowledge of the community and its history. I appreciate that the project was created in response to voices in the community and by reflecting on past successes.

Recognition of the importance of "joy" as a guiding principle is so crucial to building empathy for others, celebrating all people, and creating programing that does so much more than check a box.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

A very strong answer that not only provides context for panelists about the area but also indicates how powerful and inspirational the project will be. It is refreshing to see a project have such a strong ripple effect: one that goes beyond the events and penetrates urban planning.

Include how the artistic, cultural and historical background of the neighborhood will be applied in the program design, artist selection, theme, workshop/ services.

Claiming space through art and creative collaboration is a powerful, vibrant idea.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Strong evidence of organizational capacity. Staff seems very well versed in the community and knowledgeable in organization strategies. Budget is well rounded.

"we intend to host two community events, which function not only to gather the community in celebration, but also to build power amongst community residents in planning for the future of their neighborhood" Grounding your planning with this bigger picture focus and larger goal of community development seems like a thoughtful and intentional strategy for program development that is authentically inclusive.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: MorrisonDance

Project Title: Twenty-Five with MorrisonDance!

Score: 91.75

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

Organization shows strong evidence of legacy and impact. Incorporating the community as active participants vs passive watchers indicates a deeper level of engagement. Including statistics was a plus.

Using community definitions of dance to inform choreography seems a unique and highly original way to engage people, and seems like likely will lead to a performance that speaks to the audience on a variety of levels

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

A good answer. More elaboration on "history of being able to connect" with folks would have been good to include. Adding more information would have helped panelists understand what the connection is, how this is achieved and engagement approaches.

The applicant very clearly outlined the artistic vibrancy of the project through local collaborations and their dialogue with the public. The applicant also addressed their process of reflection and the equitable payment of performers.

It is exciting to create work with a range of abilities, and a recognition of how strength and skill can come from collaboration and the whole of the group. I think that offers the opportunity for audiences to experience art in a way that may be more accessible to them, especially if they do not consider themselves to be knowledgeable about art.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Strong indication of organizational capacity. Since this project entails community building, it would have been to list more information on staff that will help nurture and connect with communities.

The supporting documents shows diverse partnerships between local organizations and artists. Include information about targeted demographic outreach and how the detailed process of collaboration between diverse choreographers will accomplish the goal of creating one original piece.

The planning for this event appears very thoughtful, collaborative, and intentionally designed to meet their stated goals.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Museum of Creative Human Art

Project Title: Inspiring Creativity

Score: 66.75

CAC Grant Amount: \$0

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

Throughout different parts of the application there is evidence of understanding and respect of its community, as well as of using the knowledge of said community to drive the work. Efforts to be accessible to the community are provided.

I appreciate the applicant's drive and ideas. Creative workshops for students can be powerful for their development. However, there seems to be some planning missing with this project. Even though the geographic community hasn't been identified the applicant could have gone deeper into serving Cuyahoga youth. Possibly pick a school or after school program to pilot this project with to set some perimeters.

While the aims of the project are valuable, it is unclear which youth will be served or where or how they will be selected.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

More information on the workshop curriculum could have been addressed in the artistic and cultural vibrancy section. Discuss what is included that aligns with the ODE standards. Missing some details of how the youth will be engaged.

The intentions for inclusion and community collaboration are strong but I am not quite sure what programs are being offered.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

The application shows evidence of efforts to equitably recruit staff or volunteer to implement the project. There is evidence of team planning to implement the project and to set goals and measurements. The budget is clear with a plan to reach the match requirement.

Multiple funding sources.

The budget seems high for a pilot workshop without a location, community, or details.

It would be helpful to have more details about the team and planning process.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Naach Di Cleveland

Project Title: Naach Di Cleveland 7

Score: 88.25

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

The application shows understanding and respect of its community, as well as engagement with partners/residents from other ethnical and cultural backgrounds showing efforts towards inclusivity and to engage diverse populations.

Good that they are seeking to eliminate the ticket purchase barrier for groups unable to purchase.

I appreciated their example of partnering to fundraise for the Tamir Rice Afrocentric Cultural Center, but it would have been stronger to go into detail by providing information on why that partnership was important to the applicant. How did it connect to the BIPOC community in a meaningful way and how did it connect to the mission of Naach Di Cleveland?

It's great to see the focus on local and national talent and South Asian styles and beyond. The intention to welcome all is clear. I appreciate the thoughtful consideration around how best to engage with BIPOC communities.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

The application shows evidence of building the capacity of arts and culture professionals through efforts that address diversity, equity, and inclusion. The selection method also shows a process of reflection to ensure fresh programming based on co-creation of the programming with the community.

Appreciated the support material videos to highlight the kinds of performers and performances represented.

The competition is clearly challenging - "We dare them to tell us their story and show the world what it means to be Indian American" - and exciting. I also appreciate the project's clear and meaningful goals.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: NAMI Greater Cleveland

Project Title: Hope 'n Mic

Score: 89

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

The organization provided evidence of knowing its core audience and of engaging it in different ways. It shows evidence of inclusivity and engagement of diverse populations. It shows authentic support and respect for their identified community.

The event serves the public in many ways: educating, inspiring, supporting, celebrating creativity, building community. There are many entry points into deeper understanding of those living with mental illness.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

Great way to tie the arts into healing and appreciated the support video that helped amplify the artistic vibrancy. Mr. Archie Green seems to bring a lot to the table in his experience with facilitating support groups and his background as an artist. These kinds of programs need to be carefully conducted to ensure impact.

The application shows a deep engagement with the community in co-creating the program and in maintaining it fresh and relevant for the audience.

Really good angle to focus on mental health and wellness .

I appreciate how central culture and identity are to the program, and that recruitment of artists is approached collaboratively. The team is well-qualified.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

It would be helpful to know more about the scope of the event and the planning process.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: New Avenues to Independence

Project Title: Integrating individuals with disabilities and the community through music

Score: 85.5

CAC Grant Amount: \$3485

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

The application demonstrates that the organization shares power, understands, and respects its community, engaging it in challenging ways to co-create the program and drive its work. The application shows a level of accessibility to the public as well as its community.

I appreciate how this project so richly benefits adults with developmental disabilities as well as the broader community.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

The application shows evidence of using equitable principles to engage a diverse team of arts and cultural professionals as well as of building the capacity of arts and culture professionals including through efforts that address accessibility, diversity, equity, and inclusion.

It is wonderful that the musicians are supported by trained music therapists and receive high quality instruction who facilitate their sharing their talents with the community.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Well established organization.

This proposal works to support its community, it has a great music therapist to work with participants, and makes an intrinsic impact. However, it ultimately reads to be a capital proposal to buy a new sounds system, as that's where most of the funds are going to in the budget. It wouldn't be an issue, except there are renting a space, and state if they are not funded they would do the program at their own facility or cut on other pertinent expenses; versus, renting or borrowing a sound system.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: No Exit

Project Title: Surreality - Recontextualizing the Surrealist Movement for Present Times

Score: 87.75

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

This applicant states that its community is all of Cuyahoga County. However, avantgarde chamber music is not a genre popular with everyone, even when interest expands beyond the traditional chamber music community. Having a theme of "surrealism" next year also ensures that only particular segments of the general public will be interested in this wonderful concert series. If the applicant's goal is to serve all residents, then its concert seasons should reflect equally diverse music and artists.

I like that you have been able to pivot / adapt to an on-line environment as well. As you noted, this new adventure will only grow and continue to create new opportunities for the org to expand and evolve your craft. I like that you are not only paying artists, but investing in commissioned works specifically created for this piece.

The programming calendar is accessible and hopes to bring in community members from all backgrounds. Prospective partner organizations are selected, show how they hope to center Surrealism while and understanding the context of the Cleveland community. Community impact and public interest in clearly communicated.

This applicant demonstrates an understanding and engagement of its community and in particular, works to ensuring the content of the programming is understandable/relatable so that it can remain accessible and inviting to its community.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

If the applicant really serves a particular group of music lovers, it would be best to show how well it engages with that one community. In addition, while the applicant says its programming is accessible to people with disabilities, it provides no specifics regarding the range of ADA accommodations provided. Nor is there information on the applicant's website, so people with disabilities know these events are accessible to them.

I like that this is an inter-disciplinary approach where the music is the catalyst to various art experiences, as well as your neighborhood-based approach to make art accessible to all.

Artistic and cultural intent are very clear and thoughtful. They hope to include a variety of artists and presenters to create an accessible pathway towards No Exit's programming.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Overall, the application would have been more successful if it had shown how it understands and collaborates well with its core chamber music community, then provided substantial specifics about how it authentically draws in and engages with non-traditional chamber music lovers.

I like that you are continuing to push your work to new heights with Surreality after 14 years. While I appreciate wanting to gather numbers as the measure of success, I think would be beneficial to also garner qualitative insight and get feedback from the audience. Despite the outcome of the grants, I would encourage you to continue to pursue the sponsorships to further stabilize the work over time.

No Exit's team and roles are delegated clearly

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: North East Ohio Musical Heritage Association

Project Title: Lake Erie Folk Festival

Score: 93

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

Kudos regarding public benefit! While programming targets traditional music lovers, they represent many diverse cultural communities. From polka, to bluegrass, to African drumming and Irish step dancing, there is something for everyone. Diversity includes skill levels and ages through its many points of entry - educational programs, jam sessions, performances. Free events and substantive accessibility information online for people with disabilities help further create a culture of belonging.

Would have liked to have seen some numbers on how the festival has grown over time.

NEOMHA creates a vibrant and inclusive musical experience by providing opportunities for participants to engage with a variety of different art forms. They talk about engaging and presenting diverse audiences, as well as creating accessible programming, which is evident through the application. I would be interested in learning about additional collaborative partners.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

This organization's approach to program/event development and planning aligns extremely well with the artistic vibrancy goals. Its process is all about authentic collaboration and co-creation. The group decision-making processes the organization outlines in its application challenge its community and result in programs that inspire and re-energize community members after all the hard work.

I like that a substantial portion of your budget pays the artists for their time. I also like that "traditional" in this sense is inclusive and focused on a wide variety of genres. I look forward to seeing your program grow and include more and more options, cultures moving forward. Really appreciated the Hubby Jenkins episode. Very enlightening.

Artistic vibrancy is clearly shared through variety of artistic styles to be shared. I would be interested in learning about specific artists they would want to work with, or they type of experiential arts that they would be sharing.

It is great to see that the applicants encourages exploration and participation from a wide range of experience levels; I would appreciate learning more about how the applicant assess successes and areas of improvement so that it can help inform future activities.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Given the small size of this organization, it is amazing what it accomplishes and how thoughtful and intentional its programming, communications/marketing and budgeting all are. Congratulations on such a strong organization and well-written application.

I look forward to seeing your work grow.

Programming staff is clear and delegation is specific for this project.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: North Union Farmers Market

Project Title: North Union Farmers Markets: Enhancing Cultural Vibrancy through Music at the Market

Score: 89

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

The application shows an understanding of the complexity of their audience with it being made up of vendors and shoppers from many different locations. However, it still plans on gathering feedback and surveying the public to continue to provide fresh content that meets the needs of the community. The application also shows intentionality on where to place the markets to be mindful of increasing accessibility and diversity.

Variety of locations and free event allow access for all.

This event not only supports musicians and provides artistic engagement for shoppers but boosts the vibrancy and vitality of the market itself and builds community. I appreciate the intentional access to public transportation as well as inclusive approach to music selection and representation and benchmarks.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

The diversity of the music offering shows intentionality in making everyone challenged by new music as well as feeling welcomed. This also builds capacity for local artists. The goal to increase the number of non-western musical traditions also shows a process of reflection to maintain a fresh programming as well as to address inclusivity.

What would have made the application stronger in artistic and cultural vibrancy is a video clip of a Music at the Market event. Appreciated the links and slides, but audio or video would have had impact.

The process and future plan for selecting musicians is so thoughtful.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Northeast Ohio Hispanic Center for Economic Development

Project Title: La Placita 2022

Score: 85.5

CAC Grant Amount: \$3600

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

It would have been helpful if information was provided as to how the program is accessible and inviting to people with disabilities in the application or on the applicant's website. At a minimum, having a web page outlining accommodations available would have been great, even if it noted things as simple as having wheelchair accessible sites and finding accessible parking, how to request accommodations, and that the organization welcomes people with disabilities as artists and attendees.

You clearly understand the needs of your community and are willing to support the goals rooted in economic development for the Hispanic community.

The communities they will be centering as well as the goals for this project are clear. I would be interested in learning more about the specific ways they hope to include community, cultural experiences, as well as community partners needed for this project.

I recommend that the applicant describe in further detail the nature of its relationship and collaboration with the area businesses and how it works to build and strengthen relationships with its community, particularly with/among vendor participants of the market.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

I like that you are paying your artists and entertainer and not requesting their services as in-kind donation.

Intent for sharing cultural knowledge and history is clear, and would have liked to learn more about what the specific market experience would include. Such as, what type of vendors, entertainment, food, etc.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

I would encourage you to continue to look for additional funding even if you are awarded CAC funds. Knowing alternative funding sources will help grow your program and stabilize the arts and culture component even more.

Organizational capacity and delegation is clear, and has a strong team to lead this event.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: OCA Cleveland

Project Title: Cleveland Asian Festival

Score: 89

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

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This looks like a wonderful event, and I love to see that it is the fastest growing festival in Northeast Ohio. I am curious how those numbers have changed over time, as well as the economic impact on the surrounding businesses in Asia town.

It's great to see how this applicant involves many stakeholders in helping shape the content and execution of the event so that it remains relevant to its community's interest and needs. It would be great to learn more about the attendees and communities they strive to draw, and in what ways the needs and/or interests of this community help drive their work.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

This looks like a very fun festival. I do like that you are focused on ensuring the entertainment presented represented the culture "authentically." I am curious if that applies to looking at entertainment that represents "traditional" forms of entertainment, contemporary or both.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Oh Sew Powerful, Inc.

Project Title: Creating PEACE by PIECE

Score: 91.25

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

The application shows a high degree of involvement and understanding of their community together with a strong desire to gather their ideas and feedback as co-creators of the pieces.

The applicant has a deep connection with its community and has reached out to stakeholders to identify this project, which makes the public benefit strong.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

The organization shows in the application recognition of diversities among their audience, it values them, and works together challenging members to overcome them and to build strong relationships.

There is a history of artistic and cultural vibrancy in this project and with the organization serving the community. I appreciated the support material links that highlight the applicant's work with the community.

This project is the definition of artmaking and programming through community collaboration and feedback. I appreciate the thoughtful approach to facilitating intergenerational engagement.

Unique concept to include intergenerational connections through this art form.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

The organization shows achievable and measurable goals, the budget is clear and in line with the goals.

I was a bit confused by the mindfulness goal which is not mentioned elsewhere in the proposal.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: One South Euclid

Project Title: INTERSECTION

Score: 95.25

CAC Grant Amount: \$3000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

Kudos for making sure your event is wheelchair accessible! It would be great to read more in your application about the other ways you decrease barriers for participation for artists and audience members with disabilities, as well as how you get the word out to everybody about the ADA accommodations you provide for this event. Since application space can be tight, an alternative would be to have all that information available on your website.

I like that you have actively pointed out the goal to be intergenerational in your approach and value of your residents across age groups. So many community efforts have shifted widely to ignore entire populations via age. I like that you have found ways to highlight the various "communities" within your community via the arts and created space to build community by creating art together. I am curious what happened with the large community blanket created. Good luck and keep growing!

The free cultural event hopes to connect and celebrate the diverse South Euclide neighborhood by bringing in music, poetry, food, and more. Their intentions for community outreach and connecting with their diverse populations are very thoughtful and intentional. One South Euclid's programming reflects community need. In addition, as INTERSECTION hopes to highlight the diversity of the neighborhood, they provide a variety of activities to attract the broader South Euclid Community.

It is evident that this organization understands the demographic make-up of its community; more importantly, it demonstrates its strength and ability to partner with the City and local stakeholders in the planning process, and I particularly commend them for encouraging the public's involvement in the subcommittee.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

Congratulations on developing an event that exemplifies so beautifully the principles of mutuality, co-creation, authenticity and collaboration between diverse stakeholders and communities.

Artistic and cultural intentions are evident and demonstrated strongly. By including vendors from a variety of cultural backgrounds, local artists, and experiential opportunities, the programs make for a very thoughtful experience.

It would be great to learn more about how the applicant incorporates a process of reflection and how they might identify any areas of success to build upon or areas of improvement to address for future years.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

I would just encourage to look for other funding beyond CAC. There are a lot of national funders that view the arts as a form of community development.

Roles and delegation are clear. Would be interested in learning about volunteer opportunities and other roles that may be needed day of.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Pakistani Cultural Garden

Project Title: One World Day in The Pakistani Cultural Garden

Score: 79.75

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

Will allow for community to learn more about the Pakistani culture and heritage.

The applicant has strong ties to its community and having the Pakistani Cultural Garden would be a point of pride and celebration for the community. This is a goal the applicant has been trying to achieve for quite some time.

By design this event is welcoming and community-strengthening--both Pakistani and beyond.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

The application shows how the project will inspire and challenge different communities in getting closer to the Pakistani community. The organization mentions including new local talent to showcase their heritage and act as a source of inspiration for the community.

The event draws on experts in each cultural area (food, music) and the planning is highly collaborative.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

The budget is appropriate, however more clarity around the "other" expense would be beneficial especially as it represents 40% of the total expenses, with only 20% going to artists.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Parma Area Fine Arts Council

Project Title: Art For The Fun Of It!

Score: 79.75

CAC Grant Amount: \$2000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

The application shows knowledge of its audience and of ways to engage it to gather feedback and to respond to their needs. Collaborations have been started to expand the offering.

Free classes assist in allowing students of all incomes to participate.

The applicant has strong ties to its geographic community and I appreciated the stats on the community. However, the applicant's narrative on building relationships with the community including diverse populations could have been stronger. If the applicant's chosen community were the artist/instructor community then the narrative might be adequate, but there was a disconnect between expanding instructors outside of the geographic circle of the organization.

The classes seem to be held in an accessible community location and at no cost. It would be helpful to know when and with what frequency and more about the specific community served.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

The application provides examples of ways in which the project has inspired community members and challenged them to get closer and to experience arts in different ways. In the future, and as the project grows, it will be beneficial to capture that data in showing the impact and results of the project through numbers as well as testimonials.

The team is very well qualified. Which/what volume of instructors are you looking to bring on for this project?

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Poise Entertainment Education Inc

Project Title: "You Can Do It" Program By Poise Educational Entertainment TV Shows Broadcasting and Programming

Score: 79.25

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

It would have been helpful if information was provided as to how the program is accessible and inviting to people with disabilities in the application or on the applicant's website. At a minimum, having a web page outlining accommodations available would have been great, even if it noted things as simple as video captioning, how to request other accommodations, and that the organization welcomes people with disabilities as artists, educators and students.

This is a great approach to get youth connected to the Arts & Entertainment industries. I am curious if you have considered also creating a web platform and/or uploading the videos to YouTube for easy access? If the goal is to connect with the youth, then perhaps consider meeting the youth "where they are" on social media platforms like Instagram should be considered. I was also curious if you were working with specific schools to connect the work with youth and your community outreach plan.

By centering opportunities available through video and media skills, this program hopes to teach Greater Cleveland young folks about video recording, editing and more. Accessibility and intent are very clear, and target community is clear. I would be interested to learn more about specific partner organizations and outreach strategies. With this said, I was impressed by how the organization cultivates opportunities to share accessibilities within the video industry

I recommend that the applicant speak more about how it engages and collaborates with its community to understand their needs/interests.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

While it is clear there's a need for young people to learn about career in the arts, it is unclear how this project will achieve that goal. The schools involved with this project are not identified, nor are staff from the Cleveland Metropolitan School District identified as project team members. Therefore, it's unclear how this project was developed based on principles of mutuality, co-creation, authenticity and collaboration. The proposal also has gaps regarding all team members qualifications.

I was really curious about what aspects of the Arts & Entertainment industry would be highlighted in the videos and what type of resources would be made available to parents and youth interested in pursuing a career. I would have liked to have seen an example of the types of videos that would be created for clarity purposes. I am still unclear exactly what we will be seeing.

All aspects of video and media will be experienced within this program. Curriculum and opportunities are robust.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Roles are delegated clearly. Would have been interested to learn more about specific individuals within this project.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Polish Village Parma

Project Title: Polish Constitution Day Parade and After Party

Score: 82

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

The application shows knowledge of its community to drive its work, and shows collaboration with part of the community (business owners and residents who are part of the organization) in co-creating the event.

Shares with the community the Polish culture and celebration.

The organization has strong ties to its community and has a long history of offering this programming to the community. I appreciated the reference to standing with Ukraine and including the Ukrainian community into the programming, in addition to knowing there are other communities intertwined into the Polish Village.

This event is a wide-ranging celebration of Polish and all local cultures and is not only open, but relevant to everyone as neighbors and in the context of history and current world affairs.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

The application shows a process of reflection which resulted in the expansion of the entertainment shows to innovate the programming. The application would benefit from more details on the use of equitable principles to engage a diverse team of arts and cultural professionals and on capacity building efforts to address DEI.

The event is fueled by close community collaboration.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

The budget is realistic with a clear plan to reach the match requirement. It provides fair evidence of a plan to measure progress and to evaluate internal processes and structures.

Documenting procedures is a great goal for continuing to produce a quality event.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Praxis Fiber Workshop

Project Title: Praxis Fiber Workshop Natural Indigo Cooperative

Score: 85.75

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

Regarding accessibility and inclusion, the application states the program is free to neighborhood residents and then sets a goal of engaging 20 "work/trade" participants. The concepts are very different, so it's critical requirements be clearly defined. Because the website provides no workshops/residences scholarship information, and it looks like all but one of its internships require unpaid labor, it appears there's little expertise in engaging people with economic constraints in general too.

Clearly understand the community surrounding you and the history of the materials you are using. You've approached this process from a reparations framework. I like seeing that you are doing actual community meet and greets and would encourage you to continue down this path with more pathways towards community organizing. I encourage you to look at some of the techniques of www.Neighborland.com and artist Candy Chang to create more methods of reaching your neighbors.

Growing and sharing dye from the indigo plant, the program hopes to engage with community members about growing and harvest indigo and the skills needed to sell and create with these dyes. The project clearly outlines public benefit opportunities by including labor opportunities and in-person connection experiences. I would be interested in learning more about collaborative partners and specific people they hope to engage with.

I very much appreciate that the applicant honestly acknowledges the dynamics and divide that currently exists between the white-owned commercial corridor and the BIPOC residents. It is great to see that economic opportunities are offered to the residents, and it would be great to learn more about the how the organization goes about assessing the area residents interests and needs that might help shape their engagement offerings.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

The applicant identifies a project community as the surrounding low-income neighborhood. However, there is nothing in the proposal or on its website showing how it has collaborated, co-created or authentically engaged with this community to develop and implement this project. Getting the word out about this program by stopping people on the street, creates additional concerns that community relationships, especially with community groups and leaders, have not been established.

Good work in bringing the history, artists and community together through a framework of understanding its historical and environmental impacts.

Through this project, there are a variety of artistic opportunities available to participants of all levels. Through indigo, they are clear about using creative expression to center the BIPOC community members whose land this plant grows on. I would also be interested in what type of community input is included when programmatic decisions are being made.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

I like that you are developing a sustainable model to buy and sell goods directly from the land / community in which they are created. I would encourage you to also look at ways to get the product in different boutiques as well outside of the community.

Staff and teaching staff are clear. I would be interested also in learning more about opportunities for volunteers and including local students.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Providence House

Project Title: Providence House East Campus Community Mural

Score: 89.25

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

The application shows the organization's involvement with the community throughout the process that will lead to the completion of this project. There is evidence of understanding of the community and efforts to be inclusive.

I appreciate the applicant wanting to connect with the community on this mural project, including the engagement and planning from community meetings to the artist selection process.

This project inherently involves significant community collaboration and celebrates the community.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

The inclusion of this project into the children's curriculum to explore public art represents a positive challenge for the community. The location of the installation brings evidence of the intention to be a source of inspiration for the community.

Public art has the power to bring a community together and share a point of pride. I appreciate the organization incorporating art into their new facility and making sure it includes the general community in its planning.

I appreciate the artist selection plan and how central community feedback is to the process. The education component creates even more value and engagement for young people.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

The budget is fair and it's appreciated how most of the expenses will go directly to the selected artist.

A large source of income needs to be raised according to the submitted budget.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Quire Cleveland

Project Title: Carols for Quire XIII: A Choral Advent Wreath

Score: 84.25

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

The application provides evidence of community involvement through the identified 3 different parishes, the collaboration will have an impact on the programming as well as the different locations the project will be brought to. The application shares some information about the different audiences and their ethnic heritage, but would benefit from additional information as to how they will be involved in the project, besides the information about their parish.

The applicant did a strong job of identifying its community of those who enjoy vocal Renaissance music, and how they connect with this community. The application could have been stronger about how they plan to diversify their reach and build relationships with communities not already connected to their artform. They list strategies to deepen the experience of the community they already serve.

The project is highly accessible. The community is defined so clearly and intentionally and based on past collaborations. The direct mail initiative is a fantastic and overlooked way to reach new audiences.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

The application shows a degree of inspiration for the community by bringing such niche musical experience to new audiences and geographies and introducing them to musical traditions of new communities.

Good challenge and experience for the collaboration of the various carols in the congregations native language.

I appreciate the communal singing elements - powerful both for those who share the native language and those who do not - and the collaboration with pastors, music directors, and congregations. The effort to learn from text recorded by congregation members is a beautiful example of mutuality and co-creation.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

The budget is clear and appreciate seeing the commitment to financially compensate artists.

The team is committed and the goals are thoughtful.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Reaching Heights

Project Title: Reaching Heights Summer Music Camp 2023

Score: 82.75

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

The information provided does not describe how the organization is engaging the community. I feel there is a leap between the demographics of the school district and the individuals who are participating that is not sufficiently explained to determine public benefit.

I feel that this project would be a great benefit to marginalized students wanting more musical instruction. The proposal speaks highly about the bonding and comradery that the students will experience and the teacher to student ration is great. Recording the concert for future use is awesome!

It should be commended that Reaching Heights keeps its capstone performance free to the public. While the "Public Benefit" section and materials do not overwhelmingly support the criteria for this category, the organization's ability to authentically build an accessible and equitably program for the community.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

I appreciate the description of the organization's arts education efforts. They offer a high-quality summer music camp that is needed to challenge and support students with a desire to learn music. The testimonies of the campers demonstrate the level of appreciation for the program. The parent commitment to supporting their student musicians is good to see. The supporting video speaks clearly of the level of artistic and cultural vibrancy.

Reaching Heights demonstrates its ability to adapt and develop deep, meaningful arts experiences for its students.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Applicant shows they've prioritized the qualifications of the school faculty. The goal outlined is clear and easily measurable.

The organization lists an admirable goal but hasn't indicated how it would fund building awareness or reducing the barrier of transportation.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Refugee Response

Project Title: Kubra Abbas Alhilali: New Murals at The Refugee Response

Score: 96.25

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

A very strong proposal. It is great to read stats and know that they have informed this project. The organization shows strong evidence of both knowing the community and being invested in it. There is evidence of cultural relevancy: artist being a refugee, 50 percent of staff coming from the refugee community, ect which will ensure that the program is well informed.

Both the public benefit of the project and its cultural and artistic vibrancy were articulated extremely well in the narrative. The applicant addressed funding criteria clearly and consistently throughout.

The organization has clearly defined their community, and recognized the unique power artistic engagement may offer to support, heal, and strengthen them, all the while making space for them to begin to authentically become members of their new location community.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

A very strong and poetic response. It would have been good to include quotes if any are available and discuss the ripple effect impact such as how will it inspire the parents of the young clients and how it will inspire and educate those who will see the mural.

Connecting the artists selection, listening sessions, design process with the organization's clientele demographics would help visualize how the planning process incorporates their diverse perspectives in the artist's final design.

The arts are unique in their ability to bridge difference, provoke joy, and create strong bonds. The organization seems to embrace these ideas and has a plan to implement sincere programming that should yield intended positive results.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Strong indication of organizational capacity. All listed staff members have a strong back ground to produce a meaningful program. Budget looks good. It is also good to see such a high rate for the artist.

Centering an artist in the program, not only creates a wonderful opportunity for growth and engagement for the young people being served, but also a fantastic opportunity for the artist to grow her practice and expand her artistic voice

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Roberto Ocasio Foundation

Project Title: The 2023 Roberto Ocasio Latin Jazz Camp & Concert

Score: 82.75

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

I wish there were a bigger impact financially for low-income students as the tuition is very expensive for this camp. It would have been good to know how many students would be able to attend for free or at a reduced rate. The most impactful benefit to the community is the free concert.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

Evidence of commitment to strong musical instruction as well as passing down a love of and understanding of the Latin-jazz artform to youth. Support materials did not help me to better understand the vibrancy of the work, images do not work as well as video or audio for this purpose.

Love the idea of the introduction of Latin-jazz to students. That's why it would have been nice to address my previous comment as to how many can be reached.

Thank you for detailing how your program is solely dedicated to studying and performing the Latin-jazz genre. This is a unique experiential opportunity for high school musicians. I appreciate your description of how your camp ensures that the Camp Concert, Camp classes, and activities are programmed to educate and entertain in the context of this art form's history. It takes cultural relevance to the people. The videos on your website visually demonstrate that this art form is for everybody.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

The project goal lacks specificity and a tangible outcome. Because this is an important foundational goal, it would help to see a clearer outcome listed.

The budget for this project is sound, the project team is diverse, and the organization has demonstrated adaptability (through its COVID contingency efforts). The targeted goal is a little vague and does not offer much opportunity for measurement.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Rollin' Buckkeyez

Project Title: Turning Wheels in East Cleveland: RollinBuckkeyez Foundation Community Pop-Up Programming

Score: 90.5

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

There is good evidence that the organization understands its community and is building a project that brings them together. More specific information on engagement approaches specific to the project would have been good to include.

The applicant provided a strong narrative that clearly demonstrates knowledge and understanding of the community. The project is inviting and accessible, and I appreciated that the applicant emphasized the intergenerational relationship building involved. As someone who is not from the area, it was helpful that the applicant explained the neighborhood and community in detail.

The organization seems to have a deep understanding of the community they server, both in terms of historical marginalization, cultural capacity, and future potential. The concept of leveraging existing talent to authentically activate under-utilized spaces is a powerful idea that permeates the application.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

A very good response. The organization's consideration of space and the power or claiming space for meaningful use is inspiring. Especially giving the space back to marginalized/ historically underresourced communities.

Include additional information about the community's feedback in the program design, storytelling, skating instruction, and how it builds neighborhood pride.

From skating support frames to ancillary art activities for observers or those hesitant to skate, the project seems very intentionally designed to meet people where they are so, all participants can feel included and able to successfully engage with the activity

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Amazing staff to run the project! Clear evidence of strong organizational capacity. The budget is well rounded and tells the story of a successful program.

Being led by administrators and teaching artists who not only skate but also have with strong ties to the community is crucial.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Schmooze Ohio

Project Title: Schmooze Networking Event

Score: 83

CAC Grant Amount: \$2000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

A good project. There is not enough information provided to really understand who the community is, what the engagement approaches are, and how the project will have meaningful impact. While the value of the program is evident, questions needed to be substantiated with data, testimonials, data.

Since this event has been happening for several years, it is recommended that the organization consider implementing a more intentional strategy for reaching people and communities that are often still not represented even in the independent film industry. Perhaps some other grassroots outreach, such as flyers or posters in community spaces to drive people to your social media outreach.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

Good evidence of artistic and cultural vibrancy. Answer would benefit from data, quotes, and more to show impact. For example, how many people have received work? How many have become advocates etc.

The applicant provided strong evidence that their project will support professional growth and invite collaboration. It would have been helpful to have more details about how the program serves a diverse audience.

Include additional supporting documents that shows the production process, community involvement, and event experience.

This type of event is so very needed by arts professionals, and seems it certainly produces real opportunities for career growth, artistic development, and relationship building.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Staff listed have a strong background in film and production to make this proposal successful. The budget seems good; however, the administrative allocation seems low for the production size, time investment, and production.

The project seems to have a solid budget plan that is realistic and well thought out

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Shaker Arts Council

Project Title: Conversations in Courage

Score: 93.25

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

Very good evidence of public benefit and a unique proposal. The organization knows its community very well, is deeply engaged, and the impact will be long lasting. It would have been good to know engagement approaches for schools (what sort of connections have been made, will be made to share the word?). Overall a very strong proposal.

The organization has not only considered access needs to all participants, but also considered how this past program effort can be reimagined to better engage with all community members.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

A good response. The project is very relevant and deeply tied to it's audience. There is good indication that the project will have a long lasting legacy and inspire the community, while also challenging a rewriting of history.

Include additional information about the revision of the guide's content and production process. Ex. production company's feedback process, film screening, programming, and instruction.

The organization seems to have put together a divers team of artists and educators to realize this project, which should yield rich results that meet their intention of building upon past work to create something even better.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Each individual listed has a strong background to both realize the project and make it successful. Budget seems good and well rounded.

The applicant successfully addressed many of the funding criteria points in their narrative. I appreciate that the applicant explained how the teams (advisory committee, academic team, production team) will work together collaboratively to serve the community through the project.

The goal of having the project leave a lasting legacy through the incorporation of it into school curricula is highly laudable, and would certainly be a strong measure of success

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Slavic Village Development

Project Title: Rooms To Let: CLE

Score: 80.25

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

Good to see that the majority of budget is to pay artist stipends.

Great project for this community.

Two commendable aspects are noted here: one, the free admission of the event. Two, the agility demonstrated by the organization to respond to the needs of the community (e.g., more permanent artwork, an expanded pool of jurors beyond curators, the proactive invitation for community members to join the planning committee).

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

More information could be provided that describes what a quality project looks like, and, particularly to discuss what "authentic" means in the context of this proposal. That was not clear. Great to see neighborhood activation by artists.

Thank you for clarifying the intended audience and outcomes of this project. I enjoyed learning more about how this project is to bring the community together and that it is well respected. Allowing 60+ artists to share their craft with so many residents of the Slavic Village neighborhood is a tremendous lift, but you presented the project well. I wish there were more support materials, like examples of the work or a video.

Detail here is lacking, though the supporting materials are helpful. Response to the community here is commendable.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

This is an ambitious project goal and would appreciate more detail as to how this quantity of public art will be accomplished.

There seems to be some holes (unknowns) in the budget revenue. But appreciate that the artists will greatly benefit as seen by the artists fee expense category.

The additional project goal is well thought-out and achievable, as is the budget.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: SOS: Strengthening Our Students

Project Title: SO 2023 After School Program

Score: 87

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

I appreciate the clear demographic information about the specific community for the project.

Great description of the neighborhood demographics and people to be served.

Strong program with clear goals and engagement. Application narratives and video indicative of a successful program that benefits some of the most vulnerable residents in Cleveland-your youth.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

It's hard to gauge the artistic qualities of the program, but the organization has provided video and photos of students involved in a wide array of activities and they are clearly having fun.

Love the game show idea to make learning fun. I also love the fact that the learning experience is culturally relevant to the community. Well done!

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Similar to the number of students served, the expenses are notably high for a project with an admittedly limited scope.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: StandUP! For Change

Project Title: L.I.F.T. - Lessons Intended For Transformation

Score: 80.25

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

Appreciate that participants are encouraged to weigh in on the project activities and that the organization has targeted a small number of families with whom they have developed connections.

I appreciate the organization's acknowledgment that one's well-being is tied to helping one another. The organization fosters a sense of belonging for positive outcomes in its programming and builds a foundation of trust to engage with its target participants for better results. Creating a safe space and building a foundation of trust to engage with positivity is vital to the success of this program. The program request is reasonable and needed where 51% of children live in poverty.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

The information provided about how a quality art project will be created lacked specificity. Less information about general negative impacts of poverty and more about this program would strengthen the case. Good to see the list of artists involved but do not know their specific roles. I would advise the applicant to make clearer connections between work samples and the program.

This seems to be a great program for the community, but I detect very little artistic or cultural value other than programming scheduled during the month of July which is arts and crafts.

While the organization has a detailed timeline of arts events and some examples as part of its supporting materials, the narrative does not detail how the project was developed alongside the community, how it builds capacity, nor how it creates space for artistic reflection.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

It is not clear from the application how much of the funding from other sources has been secured and if not secured, more information is needed as to whether and how costs can be reduced.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Stellar Acrobatic Dance Academy

Project Title: Chang E [The Moon Girl]

Score: 82.75

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

I can't determine what community is served by this programming. There is information about where it is performed by not enough about who the intended audiences are. Performing at multicultural celebrations doesn't really describe who attends or who is targeted. The information about student demographics was very general.

I am hopeful that they do indeed engage with other cultures outside of Chinese. This is a great opportunity to educate not just Chinese who have not been immersed in their culture, but others as well.

This application clearly outlined its community engagement event that is free for everyone. Thank you for stating being able to provide free events is a way to bridge cultural divides. This production and your organization intend to foster conversation and understanding by sharing a story. It appears that inclusion and belonging are part of the goal, which benefits all Cleveland residents.

Stellar Acrobat Dance Academy demonstrates its program's accessibility by remaining free to the community. The free community classes are also notable.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

I appreciated the variety of the dance and costume in the work samples but the work would be enhanced by one or two longer video dance clips. The information provided about the organization's value to the Chinese dance community through statewide and international festivals and competitions shows artistic vibrancy.

I wish there was more said regarding how this specific project will inspire the community at large beyond the students. Their having obtained recognition in the community is great, but what impact has that recognition provided for the community.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

The project budget is not balanced. There is a \$25,000 deficit and it's not clear if this was a planned deficit. Would have like to see more explanation of the budget.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: STV Bavaria

Project Title: STV Bavaria Cultural Events

Score: 71.75

CAC Grant Amount: \$0

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

The information provided demonstrated little evidence of inclusivity to diverse populations. While historical context is interesting, it would be helpful to see more ways the organization is engaging the changing community.

Though the applicant does acknowledge that non-German members of the community participate in its programs, there is not much other information here that describes the inclusivity and accessibility of the programs to all community members.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

Video demonstrated the variety of dance and the artistic excellence of the performers.

It's great that this tradition is being revived and preserved.

Impressive to see the dedication of the staff and volunteers to host this event. I appreciate the feedback of their guest in support of their quality performance. This point is reinforced by doing well in all competitions. STV Bavaria Cultural Events is an important German cultural event.

There is not much detail here, particularly about how the artistic programming could build the capacity of arts and culture professionals or how this was produced with collaboration with the community.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Suburban Symphony Orchestra

Project Title: Free Public Family Concert

Score: 90.25

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

It would have been helpful if information was provided as to how the program is accessible and inviting to people with disabilities in the application or on the applicant's website. At a minimum, having a web page outlining accommodations available would have been great, even if it noted things as simple as having wheelchair accessible venues and finding accessible parking, how to request accommodations, and that the organization welcomes people with disabilities as artists and attendees.

I was very curious about the selection process concerning the school's that will work with you, as well as their demographics. I would encourage you to push yourself to have more than 10% or 30 youth under age 18 at the event. If a participating art student came with their siblings, then that number could easily grow.

Suburban Symphony Orchestra is very clear about the people they hope to serve; including members and audience communities. Programming is accessible and enjoyable by all ages. They indicate the vast identities of individuals that participate in Suburban Symphony Orchestra, including age diversity. Collaborating with a variety of nonprofits, schools, and community organizations, their commitment to public benefit is clear.

I appreciate that the applicant brings together a diverse age range from varying backgrounds for its member base, and that it has attracted a good number of new members in the past year as well. I also commend the programming content and engagement activities of this project, including working with student art work, are intentional and thoughtful in retaining the attention and interest of its intended audience, youth.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

Kudos for developing a family concert project that provides multiple points of entry for potential participants from the collaboration with local visual art teachers, to the instrument petting zoo and the concert itself. The applicant demonstrated a strong knowledge and collaborative relationship with its core community - the orchestra musicians. Project goal is well-articulated, measurable and pertinent to the project.

While I am sure the music to be impeccable, it would have been nice to actually have an example of performance in your submitted materials.

Programming is intuitive and intentional, engaging audience members with music and storytelling. For younger listeners, they provide experiential learning tools. Artistic variety and thoughtfulness is descriptive.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Staff capacity and roles are clearly stated. In addition, they speak to the music educators that they will be working with. Includes member volunteers in their work as well, which shows community understanding.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Tender Hearts Crusades

Project Title: New Music Cultural Heritage Concert at the Ukrainian Museum and Archives

Score: 87.5

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

I appreciate the clarity of the project and activities as described. This project clearly is designed to build bridges and connections and the programming reflects that. Although much of the engagement work has not happened yet, a plan is underway. The work samples demonstrate commitment to community work.

I am interested to know if participants in the project must already have a musical background since they will only participate in a two-day event including a concert. A two hour workshop does not seem to be enough time for a non-musical person to learn enough music to perform in a concert.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

This program is based on mutuality and collaboration and is described in a way that challenges its community. I applaud the creativity involved. However, the description of how this project will be carried out lacked specificity. Evidence of previous collaborative events greatly strengthens this proposal

I love this project's concept of bringing together two communities with music. It's fresh and thinking outside the box, allowing artistic freedom. The description of inspiring the public to think about diversity is growing cultural vibrancy.

The "Public Benefit" and "Organizational Capacity" sections are very strong and allude to how the project at-hand will be high-quality and inspirational. However, this section does not make that explicit, and this reviewer is left wondering where the collaborative element is, and how this project incorporates a process of reflection.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: The Association of African American Cultural Garden

Project Title: The African American Cultural Garden Juneteenth Celebration

Score: 96.25

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

The organization shows a lot of evidence in being invested and being deeply rooted with the community. Their engagement approaches will yield diverse visitors. It is also great to read that they are working with younger folks in order to impart the importance of Juneteenth (thus creating a lasting legacy) and get them involved.

The applicant provided strong evidence that the project is built on an understanding of and responsiveness to the communities they serve. The narrative clearly outlined the inclusive and authentic engagement of the project. I appreciate that the stated goal and assessment metrics are specific and measurable.

This program seems clearly aligned with the organizations larger goals, and very intentionally designed to welcome anyone interested in experiencing the event. There is a significant plan for outreach and publicity that is widespread, both in terms of methodology and targeted population.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

A good reply. Answer would have been stronger if it included quotes from the previous year and if it included information on how it impacts those involved (i.e. musicians)

Strong mission based project proposal designed to educate participants about the history of African Americans through a Juneteenth celebration produced by local administrators and artists.

Celebrating an important historical, cultural moment in physical space that also has significant historical and cultural importance seems like it will yield a rich experience that challenges and engages attendees on numerous levels.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Staff has good experience and there is evidence of strong organizational capacity to run a successful program. More information on marketing expense would have been good to add especially since it is a big line item on the budget.

They have put together a diverse, and knowledgeable group to plan this event, which will likely produce a vibrant event that meets their stated goal of increased attendance.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: The Gathering Place

Project Title: Building coping skill in children & young adults touched by cancer via Expressive Arts Programming

Score: 92.5

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

This was an extremely well-written proposal that clearly demonstrates the applicant's knowledge of and the specific ways it co-creates and shares power with the community for this project. Having specifics regarding specific marketing and communication strategies, reinforced the thoughtfulness and intentional ways the applicant builds authentic relationships with its community. Given that some participants are immuno-compromised, having both in-person and virtual program options works well.

Your organization clearly understands the community it is serving. In addition, I love that you all have iterative feedback process to ensure the programming is meeting community needs and wants.

Providing arts and arts therapy programming to those impacted by cancer, their arts programming hopes to offer support and healing to their community members. Outreach and access are clearly communicated, and collaborative partners and intentional and thoughtful. Working with artists and health professionals, they clearly state their goals of serving diverse populations that face cancer diagnoses.

I appreciate that this applicant maintains collaborative relationships with area health care institutions and professionals to help reach more potential participants in addition to helping drive its work for the community.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

I love that arts have become a vital to support community members facing a difficult health diagnostic and that despite covid you've found ways to continue the work on-line to connect with the community.

Artistic programming is curated quarterly, but is reflected by community need (through a variety of methods). Intentionality of programming and addressing community members through a rotating curriculum is demonstrated and clear. Would be interested to learn about specific arts programming.

It is encouraging to see that the applicant is continually assessing needs and adapts programming to respond and build upon successes from previous programs.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

I appreciate that your budget actually pays arts and cultural professionals instead of relying on donations of time.

Would be interested to learn more about key project leaders on this project, though staff capacity and role delegation are clear.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: The German Central

Project Title: German Oktoberfest

Score: 86.5

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

While this organization has demonstrated strong historical connections to its original community of German and other European cultural groups, more could be said about its relationship to its neighborhood and other communities throughout the region.

I believe this will be a good project for this community.

The German Central Organization has established a long history of producing this Oktoberfest event; through it, they have demonstrated an intimate awareness of the region's German community. The sensitivity to being an immigrant population is noted, though this reviewer expected to see examples of the "welcoming other ethnic groups" that celebrate the overlapping cultures. One might wish for a more explicit education program to do this work and serve a wider swarth of the county's residents.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

Good information and much cultural variety for the German experience.

In addition to the culinary centerpiece, this Oktoberfest is replete with German programming of music, dance, and performing art. Though there is not much information here regarding the specific performers, the array of groups is commendable.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

German Central is historically very organized in planning and executing this important cultural event. They can mobilize over 300 volunteers to make the German Oktoberfest successful. The organizers meet regularly and there is expertise in planning this important cultural event. They have diversified funding sources with significant earned income in the project budget.

The organization is an established one, with set goals, methods for measurement, and a robust volunteer corps. To further sustain its volunteer base, the organization should consider ways in which they can source volunteers from non-German organizations (perhaps as an educational tool/outreach).

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: The Harvard Square Center

Project Title: 8th Annual Fun Day Festival/Parade

Score: 81.75

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

More demographic information about the community served and the general size of the community as a whole would have helped me to gauge public benefit better.

There is not a clear delineation of how the community will be engaged or how relationships will be fostered. The question was 'how', but there was not a clear response other than their mission statement.

This organization communicates well that the festival they produce is a much needed and enriching event for the residents of The Harvard Square Center community. It has a far reach and engages families who have meaningful relationships with their annual event. Instilling pride in the residents and giving them hope creates a stronger community which seems very authentic and goal driven.

The Harvard Square Center's mission is firmly situated within "strengthening meaningful relationships within the community," and the program remains accessible, as it is free to the community.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

It is difficult to determine who decides on the programming and is it planned in collaboration with community members. More detail specifically about arts providers and how they are selected would help. Support materials did not help me better understand the vibrancy of the event.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: The Land

Project Title: Reporting From Where We Live: Community Journalism Program

Score: 81.75

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

I appreciate seeing more specificity of demographics in the optional section, creating a bit more context for the work. The Public Benefit section was more generic and did not address specific engagement activities with potential journalists or how their demographics mirror the community.

Interesting concept, but I wonder how inclusive/exclusive the selection process will be and if the educational opportunity is extended to anyone willing to learn.

Thank you for communicating how you are accessible to all Clevelanders. This organization offers a creative outlet, a way for residents to engage in telling their stories. The mentoring and teaching component builds skills and uplifts 30+ neighborhoods through the eyes of their community journalists in positive stories. All are welcome to participate, which is critical to a sense of belonging. I appreciate The Land's committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

Evidence is given as to how this project will build capacity of individuals served, particularly with mentor feedback.

Though The Land's public benefit to the community cannot be doubted, there may be some question as to the program's ability to create artistic and cultural vibrancy. Elsewhere in the application, the professional development opportunities for participants is alluded to. But there is scant detail on community collaboration nor a process of reflection.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Budget shows strong financial capacity. Funding sources are diversified indicative of a financially solid organization.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: The Makers Alliance

Project Title: 2023 Community Maker Event Series

Score: 90.75

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

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The panelists who reviewed your application are **Sarah Corrin, LaShawnda Crowe Storm, Ami Scherson, Catherine Teixeira**. Bios for the Written Panelists begin on page 5 of the [Panel Guide](#). Note: Panelist comments are presented in no particular order.

Final grant amounts were calculated by using the panelists score as the percent of the original request granted. Scores under 75 were not recommended for funding.

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

It would have been helpful if information was provided as to how the program is accessible and inviting to people with disabilities in the application or on the applicant's website. At a minimum, having a web page outlining accommodations available would have been great, even if it noted things as simple as having wheelchair accessible venues and finding accessible parking, how to request accommodations, and that the organization welcomes people with disabilities as artists and participants.

I like that you've been invited to participate in community planning processes and have reached out to partners that have strong community ties. However, I would highly encourage you to connect with the mentioned communities of your own accord. I also do not understand the diversity or demographics (race, economics, income, etc.) of the communities the org is planning to work in. As such, I cannot fully gauge the goal that "23 participants" will participate afterwards.

The Maker Alliance illustrates their mission of providing DIY and maker tools to people of all backgrounds. Centered an equity-based approach, the organization shares accessible program offerings, specific key neighborhood partnerships, as well as free/low-cost workshops. Considering scale, partnerships, and connecting with new participants, the program plans are thoughtfully communicated. The program intentions are very clear, and thoroughly communicated.

I commend this applicant's initiative in partnering with two other organizations that can help identify area/community needs and seeking to work in tandem existing programs to enhance access to programming for those communities. I also appreciate that the applicant is open about their progress in connecting with their new neighborhood, and that they are actively working to understand their needs/interests and drive their work based on what they learn.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

Kudos for prioritizing work to address the digital divide and partnering with other organizations who work to address this issue as well.

The work you provide is important, cutting edge and of the moment.

As a Maker Space in Cleveland, The Makers Alliance provides a variety of tool and skill building experiences to broader Cleveland communities. It is clear that they have many artistic and technological tools for participants to use, and they collaborate with local groups to share these skills.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Your large list of makers that offer support for classes increases your capacity tremendously. If the overall goal is connecting to communities and populations, you have not served in the past, then I would highly encourage you to complete the Groundwater training offered by CAC to better prepare you for complexity of trying to become more equitable in your work as a org.

Key team members for the project are clearly stated and aligned, while also acknowledging the impact members and volunteer communities have on their organization.

Thanks for sharing information about your team; it's particularly great to see that the applicant draws engagement from the skills and talents amongst its active member base!

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Thea Bowman Center

Project Title: Thea Bowman Center Music Project -Lift Every Voice

Score: 84.25

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

I found the mission statement to be a refreshing reminder of organizational values. Statements about the community served and its input into the program are well defined. The description of the specific student population served was very clear in this section.

Good benefit for the Mt. Pleasant community. Engaging with all ages is admirable, and the engagement plan seems extensive.

The Thea Bowman Center knows its community and has developed deep, meaningful relationships within it. This application lists the many ways in which the organization adapts to the community's needs and works alongside it in developing this programming.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

The team involved seems appropriate but small for this level of work. More explanation of how one teacher and one assistant can work with this number of students of differing ages would add important context for the project.

It would have been nice to know if the 'public gatherings' have already been scheduled.

The organization fosters a trusting relationship with the community. This allows intergenerational engagement with cultural arts. Planned community events, including school programs, holidays, and special events, empower the organization to continue building meaningful relationships by putting value to artistic and culturally relevant events.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Budget is modest for this proposal and level of service. Community demographics were very useful in understanding the neighborhood served.

The organizational capacity for all the plans listed seems a bit short. It's understandable that volunteers will be sought, but the goals seem very ambitious for only two people.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Trobár Medieval

Project Title: The Mary Rose

Score: 71.75

CAC Grant Amount: \$0

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

It is difficult to determine public benefit with the information provided. The audience size is relatively small and more information would be helpful to determine if they are adequately reaching the maximum audience for this work. Efforts to engage school age youth through story and dance is interesting.

I appreciate the acknowledgment that this type of music "was made by and for an elite European audience." With this acknowledgment, the organization is making strides to engage a wider and more diverse audience. It's not clear the plan to do so, which may have helped understand the level of public benefit. I hope the organization perseveres in recruiting a diverse audience and sparking the imagination of everyone in attendance.

The "community" defined here is relatively undefined ("our local community," "well-informed attendees" and others with "little connection to the material"). As such, it is difficult to assess how the organization is engaging/sharing power/strengthening meaningful relationships with its community, however defined.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

I greatly appreciate seeing the quality of the performers demonstrated through the two work sample videos. Authenticity and freshness of program is clearly important to the organization, as shown by the unique approach to the Mary Rose programming as well as their approach to student engagement.

Interesting story, but how will the project inspire and challenge the community?

Great videos! Singing was beautiful.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

While the goal of expanding the audience is admirable, there is not enough strong evidence of how they will accomplish this. More details on audience development would strengthen this organization's capacity for me.

The budget is reasonable for a production of this caliber. I'm glad to see the artists fees and honorariums is the bulk of the expenses with some administrative fees included to make sure the project is brought to life.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Ukrainian Cultural Arts Association of Greater Cleveland

Project Title: Ukrainian Cultural Arts Association's Spring Concert and Ukrainian Cultural Showcase

Score: 92.75

CAC Grant Amount: \$4700

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

A very good proposal. The organization both knows the community it is serving very well and connects with it in a thoughtful way. This project is particularly pertinent given the current politics and tragedies happening in Ukraine. An event like this, especially given how the event is planned, will create a must needed space for the community to gather.

The organization has not only identified how they serve a local community but also the larger international implications. They have a plan to engage with refugees that seems to authentically align with their mission and create an opportunity for a richer experience for all involved.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

It is good to read that the artistic director is up to date with dance practices; This will make for a fresh performance. The fusion of Kashtan and Zorya paved the way for a dynamic artistic experience for both artists and visitors. The is evidence that the project will inspire folks.

While most funding criteria were met that prove public benefit, it would have been helpful to hear more about the applicant's collaboration and co-creation efforts to engage the community.

Well rounded mission-based programming to promote traditional folk dance, songs, storytelling and contemporary Ukrainian art forms.

The organization seems to continue to educate and expand the skills of their lead artists through immersive experiences, which would seem to lead to even more vibrant and engaging programming. They seem to be interested in challenging both themselves as artists and their community as arts patrons.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Those involved have ties to Ukraine, which means that there is strong cultural relevancy. It would have been good to include specific information of key players. The budget looks good.

I appreciate that the applicant's goal and assessment criteria were specific and measurable.

They appear to have a strong plan in place for their event, including a new effort for outreach to additional communities and refugees

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Union Miles Development Corporation

Project Title: Ward 2 Connecting Communities Festival

Score: 91.25

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

The organization understands the residents of their community and has developed a project that addresses providing resources as well and bringing folks together. It is good to read that this project was created in response to feedback, thus showing that the community is directly involved and centered.

As someone from outside the region, I appreciate the detailed description of the applicant's neighborhood community. The applicant provided ample evidence that they understand the community, that their project is responsive to resident feedback, that they are working collaboratively, and that the event is accessible and inclusive.

The organization seems to both recognize the needs of their community while also tapping into their strengths in the form of local artists.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

Good response. It would have been good to add quotes to show interest/ how projects like this are helpful/ welcomed for the residents.

Include additional information about the incorporation of artists and neighbors in the planning process. Provide data and documentation of the representation of vendors, attendance, artist selection process, and performance genre.

"considered a destination for positive expression.." What a powerful sentiment, and strong statement on how you see the capacity of your community to share in joy!

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

It is evident that staff is well equipped to run the program. More information on what other means in budget would have been good to include. It is good to see a high allocation for artists.

They have a mechanism for gaining input from local stakeholders, and the program seems to reflect upon and implement what they learn.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Upcycle Parts Shop

Project Title: Upcycle on St. Clair

Score: 86.75

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

I appreciate the specificity of the information provided as to community involvement. The organization demonstrated its neighborhood connectivity through examples. Especially noted the accessibility issue and bringing the program to the street level to reduce the barriers to participation. This project seems well suited to a neighborhood approach.

Great idea to build community and enhance the environment. Ten 2-hour workshops provide ample time for learning and collaborating.

Upcycle has overwhelmingly demonstrated its public benefit to the St. Clair Superior community. It is committed to learning alongside its residents and working with them, and it has developed a trusted relationship throughout.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

This application lacked information about the artist qualifications to lead the program. While I understand the connection between upcycle and arts, I would have benefited from more information about who the artists are and what their roles are.

Artistic component is very evident with great potential, and I love that art skills will be taught. Kudos!

Thank you for including a video that was able to put your work into perspective rather than reading about it in a narrative. You know what they say, "A picture is worth a thousand words". The organization facilitates bringing artistry and creativity to life with community members at no cost to them. The use and education of recycled and surplus materials encourages creativity and innovation.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: UpStage Players

Project Title: UpStage Players' 2022 Full-Scale Musical Production of Matilda

Score: 86.5

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

I appreciate the community and volunteer focus of this application and it has demonstrated a history of relationship building and inclusiveness. What would have helped me would be some greater understanding of the success of outreach and recruitment of students of color. It's good to see that everyone who auditions gets a role and the level of collaboration and teamwork feels very strong.

Inclusivity is very important, and I am glad to see that it's at the forefront of this project for the children.

I appreciate how authentic this request was with its description of the proposed program and the intended participants. You mention that it is a safe space where school-aged children are accepted and wanted speaks to the dedication of the volunteers who donate their time and talents. You can build relationships with the community you serve and value trust, which is key to a successful program. Different plays keep the programming fresh.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

Evidence of a long history of artistic production is apparent. This group demonstrates their ability to infuse these productions with hard work, growth experiences, and strong camaraderie. A video link or short segment from a production would have had much stronger impact than photos but production values seem high.

UpStage is providing a valuable resource to its students and is committed in inclusivity by never turning a child away. It is most certainly building the capacity for arts and culture professionals (and life-long appreciators of the performing arts), as demonstrated in part by the success of its alumni. More could have been said (or done) regarding efforts of community collaboration and the diversity of its volunteer base.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Ursuline College

Project Title: The New Masters 2023: Women Artists of Northeast Ohio

Score: 82

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

It was difficult to gauge public benefit without more information as to how the artists will be selected and whether there will be diversity among artists represented. Low entry fees increase accessibility but there is little indication as to how the organization will share power and voice in this process.

Awesome idea for women artists. More details as to how the community at large will benefit would be great. Also, there was a lot of history presented, but not much regarding what the plan for this project will be as it pertains to the benefit to the women artists that will be reached. The presumption is that what was done in the past will be the same for this project.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

I appreciated the inclusion of information about the project manager but very little was said about the wider selection team or efforts to build capacity among team members or participating artists. This would have strengthened the proposal for me.

Artistic component is very evident.

The focus on presenting and empowering women artists is refreshing. This multi-media art showcase gives women an opportunity to have their works seen.

This exhibit is clearing building the capacity of arts and culture professionals, it is curated with the intent to serve a diverse audience, and the mandate for new art and the regional concentration ensures fresh programming.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

The women artists are the focus of this project yet, their prize budget is one quarter of the administrative fees. More compensation would have been nice to see.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: VIVA Bavaria

Project Title: German Day Cleveland

Score: 83

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

While there is evidence that the organizers of this event take pains to involve and include members of a wider German community I see less evidence that this event is meant to engage a more diverse audience (non-Germans) in the community and is designed to be welcoming to those unfamiliar with the culture.

I like the celebration of the German culture, but this project seems to only target the German population missing an opportunity to educate other ethnicities about the richness of this culture. It seems that students studying the German language will receive free tickets; it would have been nice to include a few others to expose them to the culture and possibly awaken an interest for future opportunities.

With 14 participating organizations, and many arts groups (i.e., several bands, dancing groups, and choirs), the German Day celebration is inherently shared throughout its community. Additionally, the audience and participant feedback response has created changes within the event, something for which the organization should be commended.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

The costumes and images speak to the authenticity and care given to cultural representation. While all German heritage groups are invited to participate, more information on who does participate will strengthen the case. Telling and preserving immigrant stories speaks to the commitment to authenticity. This is an application that would greatly benefit from a video excerpt to highlight the event and show the cultural vibrancy more powerfully.

Cultural component is very evident.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

The organization has a solid organizational capacity with year-round planning. The budget is reasonable. Most of this organization's narratives mirror the German Central Oktoberfest's submission.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: West Park Kamm's Neighborhood Development

Project Title: Pop-Ups in the Parks

Score: 77.75

CAC Grant Amount: \$3600

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

I appreciate the thought that went into updating the programming to have a stronger impact on the neighborhood and to use resources more effectively to promote community. Good description of the neighborhood was provided and a detailed explanation of why programming would be spread across multiple parks added to the accessibility. Clear evidence of community engagement was present.

This is a good opportunity to introduce various, diverse cultures to each other while providing a cultural experience for all.

I struggled to learn anything about the public benefit of the project. A lot of focus was put on the neighborhood's demographics but very little on how the implementation is of public benefit. The description feels random, lacking specific details and disconnected as to what is offered in the Pop-Ups series. I would have appreciated more information on how this organization will directly connect with the community rather than through community partners and institutions.

The "Pop-Up in the Parks" series of events is scheduled with specific sensitivity to where they are located so as to ensure an inclusionary experience. The organization has responded to community feedback about location, time, and family-friendly content. They are aware of the demographic shifts of their community and are committed to responding to it.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

While the case for cultural vibrancy and cultural engagement was very strong, more information about what artistic activities will take place and how artistic participants are chosen would strengthen this proposal. The project does demonstrate a mutuality and cross-pollination of cultures, creating opportunities for those from primarily white communities to experience cultural events with their BIPOC neighbors.

More details about the BIPOC showcases would have been nice to know. Also more details about any artistic services or experiences would be beneficial.

I wish more detail explained the project's artistic and cultural vibrancy. It seems more about how to engage BIPOC communities, but not much more to be inspired that this is a cohesive project.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

The experience of the team is evident, as is their capacity and history of building relationships and eliciting community input to strengthen the work. They have demonstrated throughout the proposal that the goal of building community and diversity is a value that they will pursue and measure.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: West Shore Chorale

Project Title: The West Shore Chorale's Choral Scholars Program Spring Concert

Score: 80.5

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

More detail about how the organization will actually diversity and what type of outreach and to whom, would strengthen the case for public benefit. This piece feels a little general, with no specific schools listed or what diversity of participation means.

I love the multi-generational aspect of this project and the ability for those who cannot afford it to be participants as well.

I can appreciate the intent of creating a sense of belonging and increasing diversity from the community. It was never clear what tangible steps were taken to engage diverse audiences and choir members. Free concerts don't equate to creating spaces where Cleveland residents feel welcomed. This is an area I hope the organization tries to strengthen.

The organization keeps its concert free for students and demonstrates a capacity for outreach into schools whose students are lacking this sort of musical experience. If the the 2-3 Cleveland schools were already selected (or even if a few were named as examples), it would have demonstrated further the commitment of the organization in this area. Additionally, the surveying of Scholars is a good demonstration of how they are responding to their own community.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

I appreciated the work sample with images and background music, demonstrating the entire event, but would have found even greater impact in a short performance video, highlighting the chorale. It is clear from the survey that the students greatly value the experience

This is an opportunity to keep choral music alive having past scholars be involved with new scholars; however, examples of some of the music that will be taught would have been nice to see to evidence the artistic component.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

The budget is clear and reasonable and I appreciate that commitment to paying artists is represented here. The organization has addressed the challenges of the pandemic and leadership transition and demonstrates a clear approach for moving forward.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: West Side Catholic Center

Project Title: Expressive Arts Project

Score: 90.25

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

This proposal demonstrates the organization's capacity and willingness to listen to its community and offer programs that will better serve them as their needs change and new understanding of the role of arts in addressing trauma can play. The expansion and diversity of the program represents a desire to offer multiple pathways to community.

It was exciting to read this application. It was unique in that the primary end user is a community that is often overlooked for art services. The project activities were explained in detail that demonstrated how they benefit the client and thus help the public. The programs are a mechanism to bring different communities together, with art being the "means to engage."

WSSC is providing a much-needed arts-centered experience for the region's most vulnerable population, and one that was developed in part due to a response from an organizations assessment. WSSC understands and responds to its community, and has develops opportunities to leverage the reach of the program to even those beyond the ones directly participating in it.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

I appreciate the inclusion of the wider, non-client community in this work. Bringing together people experiencing homelessness with those whose communities they share offers opportunities for sharing and empathy. The diversity of programming - including drumming and gardening - speaks to thoughtful program design. Shorter videos highlighting a sample of different projects and works created would have strengthened this piece for me.

Great idea! Building community through art is a win-win. I love the fact that there are multiple art disciplines presented offering options to participants. Brilliant!

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

This is a great undertaking for such few people, but it's a great work with a great purpose.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Western Reserve Chorale

Project Title: Remembrance and Hope

Score: 89.5

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

It would have been helpful if information was provided as to how the program is accessible and inviting to people with disabilities in the application or on the applicant's website. At a minimum, having a web page outlining accommodations available would have been great, even if it noted things as simple as having a wheelchair accessible venue and finding accessible parking, how to request accommodations, and that the organization welcomes people with disabilities as artists and attendees.

I like that you are looking for ways to connect with other choral groups in the area, as well as using music to acknowledge, help and support our society in doing with the past few years of multi-layered traumas. Also, curious if you have thought of looking at different methods to advertise beyond your traditional approach in order to reach different audiences. Perhaps different ethnic newspapers and radio programs, school youth choirs, etc.

Utilizing the theme of "Remembrance", is it clearly stated that Western Reserve Chorale hopes to connect community and audience together by reflecting upon history, trauma, and hope. Working with artistic and community partners, WRC illustrates the impact they would like to see music have on broader audiences. Working with schools as well as providing free concerts and virtual capacities, they make for an accessible program.

It's great to hear that this organization plans to partner with another chorus and art/music therapists for this project and that it has a history of doing so with other area groups and schools. It's also encouraging to see that this applicant is conscientious about any barriers for access and to maintain a space that is inviting to all.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

Important work for our community to find a path forward to heal. The supportive materials were excellent. As a person that typically would not attend this type of musical event, by the end of reviewing your performances, I was intrigued and wanted to go to a concert.

With their repertoire set, they hope to combine classical works with poetry. WRC demonstrates their intentions of connecting shared emotions such as loss, grief, and hope, with works of music that can be appreciated by all. In addition, their collaborations with local veterans furthers the intent of this project

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Would definitely like to see you also find ways to connect with different audiences beyond simply relying on partnerships. I know you are small and mighty org with a primary volunteer base, but to grow I would encourage you to start considering how to branch out in new ways.

Staff capacity and roles are very clear, as well as specific locations.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Western Reserve Fire Museum & Education Center

Project Title: Ohio Fire Apparatus & Equipment Manufacturers Lead the Nation

Score: 73

CAC Grant Amount: \$0

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

It is somewhat difficult to gauge the public benefit without more discussion of who the community for this work is. The applicant speaks of community generally and could benefit from more specificity about intended audiences and the diversity of the community served. More information is needed on ways that they have built relationships within their target community and outside the enthusiasts for this work.

Interesting concept from a very specific genre.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

It seems that the applicant works internally to determine what is relevant to visitors. More evidence of working outside of their own institution would strengthen the cultural vibrancy of this application. Offering opportunities for young professionals to work on exhibitions is commendable and gives strength to this section.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

I appreciate the depth of knowledge and diverse backgrounds of the exhibit committee. Every step of the planning process is well thought out and communicated brilliantly. The use of retired firefighters brings a level of expertise that will benefit the entire project. The project budget supports the exhibit will be professional in presentation. The expected donations from passionate donors and firefighters speak to how this project is supported in the community.

The stated goal of the project and its associated measurables are lacking in detail that was provided by other applicants. The recruitment processes and organizational structures are somewhat vague as well.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Western Reserve Land Conservancy

Project Title: Tree Stewards Training Program

Score: 83.25

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

Appreciate the engagement activities used to support community leadership around tree stewardship helps to support the public benefit component. Distributing free trees seems like an important first step. It would be interesting to see data of numbers from low canopy neighborhoods that actually participate or is this the first year that these residents have been prioritized? More about community collaboration would strengthen this section.

I am impressed with the honesty and understanding of discriminatory policies and practices that have negatively impacted certain neighborhoods and communities in Cleveland. This program will have impact on low-canopy BIPOC and low-income neighborhoods for generations to come. It's the gift that keeps giving to address economic disparities as well as health and climate-related benefits of trees. You are addressing equity and inclusion that will surely make a difference and benefit all residents.

Though its served community is undefined in its application, the Western Reserve Land Conservancy knows the population of Cleveland and the specific neighborhoods that are facing a lack of a tree canopy. The no-cost entry point to the program ensures that anyone can access the program, and the training sessions would do much to prepare volunteers to continue this work after the program ends.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

I don't see evidence of the diversity of the team but rather a desire to serve a diverse community. The approach to the goal of increasing tree canopy is strongly articulated but the connection to residents could use more detail. The videos provided were well done and had strong impact.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

The project goal is well stated, specific, and measurable. Because the "Other" portion of the budget is substantial, more information would be appreciated.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Westown Community Development Corporation

Project Title: Literacy Through The Literary Arts

Score: 84

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

This applicant has been thorough and specific about the community it serves and its needs. The project is based on pressing needs of the community and a thoughtful approach to increasing literacy and engaging the whole family in the process. Demonstrated community buy-in and deep relationships within the community - including board members and artists participating - have made this a strong component of the proposal.

Not much said about how community engagement will take place for this specific project, but the impact would be great if the community can be brought in fully.

I appreciate you giving details of who benefits from your project. To engage low to mod income residents in a positive approach creates a sense of dignity. The fact that performers with disabilities is part of the program is wonderful. This clearly addresses a sense of belonging and hopefully lead to long-term gains to the participants.

WCDC understands its audience and the demographic trends that comprise the city's vulnerable child population. It's programming is free, and this program in particular reaches students through the schools for amplification. It shares responsibility by ceding individual program control to partnering organizations (through the RFP).

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

What would have greatly strengthened this section would have been photos or videos of participating artists or artists working with community - specifically children - at past events. More information could be provided about how artists are selected. The applicant has demonstrated that there are multiple voices involved in planning and listening to community needs is key.

More details as to how the quality project will inspire and challenge the community. Thank you for the information on staffing and how artists will be paid, but how what will be the takeaway for community members and residents.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

I'm happy to hear that artists are paid for their value at union scale wages. The project budget supports this with a larger line item for Artists/performances/workshops.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Windsong, Cleveland's Feminist Chorus

Project Title: In Harmony with our Community : Mass Chorus and More

Score: 81

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

I appreciate the applicant's commitment to the work of diversity, accessibility and equity through trainings and workbook learning. More evidence is needed about the challenges of equity and what the organization is doing to engage BIPOC singers, participants, and audience members to this work. Specifics about what they are doing to be more welcoming or diverse are missing.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

Hosting this festival speaks to the organization's artistic strength and ability to carry out work that engages a larger network. There is no specific information as to the diversity of the core board/staff. Lacking any work sample to experience the organization's work or repertoire makes it difficult to gauge artistic vibrancy.

I love the idea of a community choir especially one with only women. The artistic component is definitely detected.

Music for the soul is uplifting, and this organization creates memories. The production of concerts where issues such as hope, resilience, love, and social justice are positive. You are working on ethnic and racial diversity that would offer richer experiences and new voices to elevate your performances. The addition of videos would have been helpful to show the caliber and impact of your performances.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Wingsong should be commended for its plan to develop a program specifically geared toward outreach into communities with choruses and prospective audiences that would otherwise not be able to participate in the SSNF. The budget, though containing a rather large "other" category, is sound, and the follow-up description of how the funding would be used is well-noted.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Woodland Cemetery Foundation of Cleveland

Project Title: The Past in the Present

Score: 79.75

CAC Grant Amount: \$4000

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

The applicant was specific about the importance of this work to the community and specifically the African American population in the neighborhood and the cemetery's connection to the Underground Railroad (more information on the connection to the Underground Railroad would have been helpful). I appreciate the community engagement to take place. It is exciting to see the educational opportunities and the organization's work to create a place of history and neighborhood pride.

Interesting concept!

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

The ties to the community and the potential to make history (and a cemetery) come alive for residents is a powerful opportunity. Particularly strong is the potential connection for African American residents if it is done correctly. More information about how the interpretive work would be done and who would be participating would have strengthened this section. Who tells the story is important. Would have liked more information on what "collaboration" looks like with the groups listed?

I really appreciate that this organization was founded on the principle of honoring the past and allowing the living to connect with their ancestors. Acknowledgement of the contributions of various communities to Cleveland and honoring them in their final resting place is admirable. The project tells the history of African American, Women of History, Arts and Artists and allows residents to learn the true history of Woodland Cemetery. Costumed actors is so fun.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

It seems that the entire budget for this organization is for this project (or else the project would double the budget - unclear at present). It is unclear as to whether the City funds have been secured since so much of this project is dependant on two funding sources.

Unfortunately, there is little description of the specific team and its qualifications to launch this program, important as it is. Likewise for the stated goal of the program, and the ways that it will challenge and inspire audiences.

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Writers in Residence

Project Title: Empowering Incarcerated Youth through Creative Writing and Peer Mentorship

Score: 95.75

CAC Grant Amount: \$4999

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The panelists who reviewed your application are **Karla Centeno, Maria Jenkins, Channie Jones, Lisa Leiberling**. Bios for the Written Panelists begin on page 5 of the [Panel Guide](#). Note: Panelist comments are presented in no particular order.

Final grant amounts were calculated by using the panelists score as the percent of the original request granted. Scores under 75 were not recommended for funding.

Questions? Cuyahoga Arts & Culture is here to assist. Please contact:

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

A very strong proposal. The workshop and mentor pairing shows the project has a comprehensive engagement approach. The project is centered around its audience and serves it with much thoughtfulness.

"provides a marginalized population with the space, time, and skills to rewrite their own narrative. " This is such a powerful recognition of the community being served and how this program engages with them where they are, sees them, then provides tools for their success on their terms.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

The pairing of professional talent with stakeholders and making content explored pertinent shows a lot of cultural relevancy and awareness from the organization. A very holistic approach that will yield much success and inspire the participants, educators, and those who read the content.

The applicant provided strong evidence that their project will operate with respect, understanding and responsiveness to their community, and that their programs will help to build meaningful relationships. I appreciate that the applicant provided details of the equitable recruitment process for its teaching artists.

The supporting documents highlight the participant's positive experience and artistic growth.

Utilizing artists and educators from the area who can not only be artistic role models but personal ones likely yields results that far exceeds those that might be attained from interactions with outsiders, who might have good intentions but lack the lived experience.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Good indication of strong organizational capacity. Budget is well rounded. Beautiful work sample!

This program is so humanely planned, and thoughtfully designed to recognize the whole person, which is something that incarcerated youth usually get so very little of

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL



Organization: Youth Challenge

Project Title: Dance & Drama Program for Young People with Physical Disabilities

Score: 90.5

CAC Grant Amount: \$5000

To ensure an impartial and transparent application review process, CAC convened an online panel of arts and cultural professionals from outside the region who evaluated and scored eligible applications.

Panelists scored each application based on the Funding Criteria—Public Benefit, Artistic and Cultural Vibrancy and Organizational Capacity—with an emphasis on Public Benefit. For more details regarding the panel scoring process please refer to page 3 of the [Panel Guide](#).

Requests of \$5,000 or less were reviewed via independent, written reviews, and many panelists left comments for the applicants. Below you will find the panel's scores and any feedback in response to your application.

The panelists who reviewed your application are **Melissa Cirone, Rhonda Ivery, Dana Manyothane, Michael Smith**. Bios for the Written Panelists begin on page 5 of the [Panel Guide](#). Note: Panelist comments are presented in no particular order.

Final grant amounts were calculated by using the panelists score as the percent of the original request granted. Scores under 75 were not recommended for funding.

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PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2023 PROJECT SUPPORT WRITTEN PANEL

PUBLIC BENEFIT (45 points)

This program demonstrates that it centers inclusion and accessibility not only through its work but through offering programs free of charge and to include transportation free of charge - both of which go a long way to decreasing barriers to participation. Involving teen volunteers and participants in one-on-one socializing and work is also deeply engaging.

Brilliant idea to engage youth that are differently-abled in arts activities. The showcasing of their talents is fascinating and a great educational opportunity for able-bodied attendees.

Thank you for bringing the arts to youth with disabilities. I appreciate the opportunity to participate in the Dance & Drama is open to all children with physical disabilities in the Greater Cleveland area. Involving teen volunteers to experience working with peers with physical disabilities is commendable to grow and develop meaningful relationships. It is evident through the narrative that this project benefits the community.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL VIBRANCY (35 points)

The video is a beautiful representation of the work and its impact. The emphasis on impact to participants, staff and volunteers alike is powerful. The arts professional is herself an alumna of the program, showing evidence of inclusiveness. Representation of work by Dance & Drama program would have supported this portion of the application.

Artistic component is clearly detected.

Youth Challenge shows itself to be adaptive and responsive to feedback and input from its community of volunteers and participants. For they latter, they are involved in every part of the program, and they are challenged but guided throughout the process by volunteers and experts.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (20 points)

Would have appreciated seeing more of the funds allocated to artist participation; not sure if the administrative personnel includes the trained artists (possibly the program manager). The organization has a large board and administrative capacity to carry out the work. Volunteer engagement is key and the testimonials from volunteers in the video are strong.

Massive undertaking, and I am hopeful the staff will have enough assistance for a successful project.